

ORLEANS PARISH GRAND JURY

KERRY THORNLEY

FEBRUARY 8, 1968

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Mr. Alfred - 1/5/70*

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SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

PRESENT: MR. JIM GARRISON, DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
MESSRS. JAMES ALCOCK, RICHARD BURNES,  
ALVIN OSER, AND ANDREW SCIAMBRA,  
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEYS,

MEMBERS OF THE ORLEANS PARISH GRAND JURY

KERRY THORNLEY

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Reported by:  
Maureen Thiel,  
Secretary  
Orleans Parish Grand Jury

KERRY W. THORNLEY, upon being duly sworn by the Foreman of the Orleans Parish Grand Jury, was questioned and answered as follows:

MR. SCIAMBRA:

Mr. Thornley, Mr. Garrison will be questioning you today and perhaps a few others, but I think a good place to start would be your Marine Corps service and how you first got to meet Lee Harvey Oswald, give us some of the details about your acquaintance and relationship.

A. OK. In High School I joined the Marine Corps, the Reserves, I went through boot camp that summer....

Q. Kerry, what year was that?

A. That was in 1956. The spring of '56, or was it '57 - I am pretty sure it was '56. That was my junior year in High School and I was getting old enough pretty soon for the draft, I had gone down to get a draft card and all that, and I got to thinking about it and I decided that what I would like to do would be go into some branch of the service and they had a two year reserve program in the Marine Corps, so I joined the Corps and went to boot camp that summer and came back to High School and finished, went to college for a year, and then at the end of my college year messed around that summer and I realized that I would not have enough money to go back that

fall because I had put off getting a job, etc., so I decided it would be a good time to serve my two year obligation so I went on active duty and requested overseas duty. I was sent to Santa Anna, California and was in the Air Wing of the Reserve. Most of the men in my outfit had training as aviation electronic operators, I had never been trained, I had never been sent to school on this, I had been in a reserve outfit and it had been my job and I had been briefed on it for about five minutes, there was never anything about the job that I didn't know from that time on, I don't know what they learned in school. I went on duty and got stationed with this outfit that was called MAX 4, Marine Air Control Sq. 4 and it was next door to MAX 9, now I went on active duty in the fall of 1958 in October, I believe, it was either the 30th of September or the first of October. I was in MAX 4 for sometime, I know that in January and February there were windstorms blowing down in that area, sometime after that I heard that MAX 4 was going overseas and I did not have enough time left in the service to go overseas so I was going to be transferred with all of the other people who did not have enough time left to do a tour of duty with the outfit overseas. I was going to be transferred into MAX 9, and sure

enough I was put in MAX 9. When this was exactly I do not remember, but it was sometime after January or February of 1959. Now very gradually Oswald came to my ... I don't remember a first time when I actually was introduced to him, he just very gradually came into my consciousness as somebody in the outfit that I knew, and whether he knew me right away I don't know. He kinder stood out because he was always getting into trouble and a lot of it was he would attract suspicion to himself. Almost deliberately, you would feel that it must have been deliberately. He would get into trouble and then he would complain about it and he would feel that he was being picked on for trouble he got into and meantime he would be innocent, but he would manage to make them think he had done something by behaving suspiciously, and ....

Q. Could you give us kinds of activity that he would engage in that would cause trouble?

A. Well, I sat down and made a list of all of the specific things I could remember, that I could clearly remember, much of what I remember is based on things that happened and I came to this and that conclusion about Oswald at that time, thinking about it, conclusions that I formed at that time when I was with him, the things I remember are things like Lt. Donovan mentioned to the newspapers shortly after the assassination, things like standing up and correcting officers when we were getting lectures

on current affairs, Sgt. Sparr would be standing there, our second Chief, and we would all be there in the muster and always the guys who were considered bad Marines would get picked to go out and mow the lawns, sweep the walks, and that sort of thing, and Oswald<sup>was</sup>/on that list, nearly every morning. Sgt. Sparr would call out Oswald and he would say 'yes-s-s-', real resigned, 'oh yes, I know', that sort of thing, 'naturally me' sort of manner, and this would irritate the Sgt. So that's the kind of thing. Then the kind of thing, I don't remember any specific activity he took part in that attracted suspicion to himself, but I know that I had that impression. The first thought that came into my mind when I heard about the assassination was that he had done this kind of thing again. Later I changed my mind. My initial thought was you know, Oswald has got himself into it again.

JUROR:

You think he was only trying to attract attention to himself?

- A. I felt that he had managed to purposely or unconsciously or something - my first reaction was that kind of thing always happened to Oswald. You know he was accident prone in the direction of getting into trouble, usually something he did not do but the attitude he had about it. There weren't too many guys in the outfit that way, it was a lax outfit, it

was lax for a Marine Corps outfit, the Air Wing is lax in the Marine Corps except for a very few outfits, but most of them they leave you alone and one of the reasons I transferred into the Air Wing Reserve outfit, before I went into the Marine Corps, I was older then and I wasn't quite as big as the things I proved to myself - because I went through boot camp and I figured I could do that sort of thing. The first time that Oswald really came to my mind, that I can remember vividly, was looking at him and thinking that's Oswald, was one day when a bunch of us were sitting around and he was sitting on a bucket, and some guys standing around, Nelson Delgado, who was a very excitable Puerto Rican fellow, I think he was an Amy Semple McPherson follower, and at that time I was an atheist and so was Oswald, Delgado was very disturbed that I was an atheist and he would leave me alone about it, he was always, you know, coming at me with this business and my kind of thing, that I learned in the Marine Corps, was the only thing you could ~~xxx~~ do about this was not to apologize, but come on strong right back and he and I would get into big arguments and some of the other guys would join in and that day I was standing there and Delgado, or someone like Delgado, said to me "Oswald is an atheist too," and I said

"Oh, you are?" and he looked up at me and he smiled and he said "yes, I am - what do you think of communism?", and he said it in a very soft spoken manner. This was something else that did not come across in the papers about Oswald. If I were asked to describe him I would say he came on like a poor man's Adlai Stevenson. He had his opinions, and his opinions were different, and they were not the opinions of the people in control of the outfit, but he did not go around like a fanatic shouting and this sort of thing, usually - he was not a trouble making sort of guy like going around and getting into fist fights, I never saw anything like that. Well, anyway, he, in this very soft spoken manner, said "what do you think of communism?" and at that time my own philosophy was sort of liberal humanist, reformist social thought that communism was basically a well meant philosophy which had an ambiguous attitude toward democracy. And this disturbed me a lot. This sort of thing of giving lip service to democracy and yet having things - police state type things too - I expressed this reservation and Oswald said - I said something like 'well, I think something is wrong with communism, and because I am an atheist, please don't think I am a communist', so many of these guys associated atheism with communism, you know, you are really helping the cause. So I said to him



or he said to me "I think communism is the best system, I think they have the best system", you know, asserting it and not arguing it, and then smiling and waiting to see what I had to say. I don't know what I said but we got into a discussion. Another time I can remember getting into a discussion with him was like one day we were moving some radar gear, holding these big heavy radar things, taking them off a truck or something, lowering them down or something, and I remember either he or I said, I think it was he, but might <sup>me</sup> it/have been ~~him~~, said "Be careful with big brother's equipment", this was from reading "1984" - and I was into "1984", I had begun reading it on his advice, I don't remember when I began to read it but I know when this comment went between us is was significant because he got me to read the book. That kind of thing - there are lots of little incidents like that - there is one scene of Sgt. Sparr getting up on a tractor, standing there and somebody saying - once again, I am constantly going over this stuff in my mind and sometimes I develop doubts in this area and sometimes I develop new information - now somebody and I think it was Oswald, and I was much surer it was Oswald a couple of years ago, but somebody said "ah ha, collective farm lecture", and Oswald made that type of joke all the time. One time, I am sure it was Oswald, a bunch of officers were called to an officers' meeting, and he said "well, there they

go, the party leaders", he was always comparing the Marine Corps to either "1984" or the Soviet Union. Because they were things that could always be taken both ways. Either the 1984 comparision or the Soviet Union, calling people 'comrades', that sort of thing. I knew that he spoke Russian, and there was this business, and I made out a signed statement that Dave Lipton gave a copy to Mr. Garrison, about this man standing in back of my right and Oswald saying something like this (Russian word), and somebody would laugh, then they would both laugh at the joke, and there was this thing, and the reason this became important later was because when the Secret Service came to see me here in New Orleans they asked first thing "did you ever hear of a man named Alex James Heidel", and the first thing I thought of was this guy speaking Russian and I said gee, that sounds familiar, that guy speaking Russian, and I said - and I named some other people that I thought might have known Oswald, Cooley, Weir, Weir turned out to be a weird guy later, the more I thought about it, he was overseas with me, and this guy Heidel, this guy whose name started with an H, and once Heidel had been suggested to me I couldn't get another name into my mind, that was the one popped up every time I thought about it ....

Q. Now where did this take place, in El Toro?

- A. Yes. I knew Oswald for a three month period in the spring of 1959 at El Toro Marine Base, actually it was not the base itself, a subsidiary, called LTA, which stood for Lighter Than Air, because it used to be a blimp base, and now it was a helicopter base, and the MAX outfit was over there. One of the rumors about the Max outfit - they always seemed to be in isolated places on the base - so one of the rumors was when working around radar would make you sterile, and you heard scuttlebut all the time of course and this was among the kind of thing you heard, and so anyhow .....
- Q. You can remember Heidel in the outfit at that time, in the spring of 1959?
- A. Right. There was some guy whose name started with an H ...
- Q. And he was the person who spoke with Lee?
- A. Right. Some guy whose name started with an H. Now, it might not have been, the way I connected him with Heidel was what Jenner said to me in the Supreme Court cafeteria afterwards. As I remember it, I don't remember how this guy looked and when Dave Lifton told me Garrison told him he wanted me to come down here and identify him I told Dave it seemed to me he was tall and blond, that is what it seems like to me but I don't know for sure. A couple of other guys in that outfit greatly resembled Oswald, they had noses like Oswald, sort of

Roman noses, and there was one guy, and I don't remember who it was, but it might have been Hyndel, now I remember one day he was going to go some place out in the woods and commune with nature - these were the words he used - and and I looked at him and thought 'well, what an intellectual outfit I had gotten with', you know, for the Marine Corps, and it was really - and it was one of the reasons for this was we lived in these quonset huts, you could talk a lot more freely without worrying about somebody overhearing you and passing the word on out that you were doing this, that and the other thing.

Q. You associate Heidel with speaking Russian with Oswald?

A. No, this isn't the way it was at all. When the Secret Service asked if I had ever heard the name Alex James Heidel it struck me it struck me just like the name Guy Banister did, I had heard it, and I said 'hey wait, that guy who spoke Russian with Oswald', and I said 'now, I am not sure, but there was a guy with a name something like that who spoke Russian in the ranks with Oswald'. I associate it with Hyndel when after I gave my testimony to the Warren Commission I walked to the Supreme Court and I asked where is Delgado and he said 'Oh, Delgado is in New York', and I said 'where is Lawson, did you talk to Lawson', did you talk to this guy, that guy, you know

all my old buddies in the Marine Corps, what they were doing, and along the line as I am saying this, I said "Oh, by the way, who was it who used to speak Russian in the ranks with Oswald, you know that guy I kept trying to remember and I kept associating with Heidel", and Jenner looked at me and he grinned and this guy gives you the feeling that he has a mind like a steel trap and a sparkle in his eye and really he is a very sharp guy and he has a lot of wit about him too, and he got this little sparkle in his eye and he said "it was Heidel". And my mouth falls open and I show surprise and he says "no, it was a guy named Hyndel, and I spoke to him, he is harmless". Then later we were walking toward the Warren Commission, the reason we were over the cafeteria we were having lunch and they were running off two drafts of my book, and another thing I want to bring out I have the old draft of my book, the one I wrote before this, and I have the one I started before and finished after out with my agent in California, and I can send you copies of these if you want to have them Xeroxd, the thing is though, the reason I don't think these books were suppressed by the Warren Commission is because when Jenner was walking with me over to the Supreme Court cafeteria before he ever read the book, he took it from me at the end of that testimony thing,

and he handed it to some clerk and said 'run this off'. After the proceedings were over we were walking over he said "I might drop that book of yours from the evidence as I want to protect your rights on it, you know if the evidence is published that would be public domain and I will see that your rights are protected", and I said "I am not concerned about that". He could do whatever he wanted to do, but before he read the book or anybody else could have, because I had it sitting in my lap the whole time I was testifying, and he was telling me he would drop it from the evidence. There was no way he could have decided that it contained something that was suppressed - that is just something that I thought should be brought out.

Q. Did ~~XXXX~~<sup>you</sup> ever mention the name of anybody else in the Marine Corps as a possibility for speaking Russian with Oswald?

A. I don't know, I might have, I think I mentioned this Weir as a possibility, but I am not sure. As I recall what I said to the Secret Service was that I thought this Heidel, or somebody with a name like, that spoke Russian with Oswald, and I thought Oswald had some other fairly close acquaintances, like me, but I didn't know of anybody that you could say was Oswald's friend. I just can't think of anybody in the outfit that you

would say was Oswald's buddy.

Q. Did you understand any of the dialogue that went on in Russian?

A. No, I did not speak Russian at that time, I learned a little bit of Russian over at Atsugi afterwards. A thing about this was I didn't know for sure it was Russian, I had no way of knowing, but I assumed it was Russian because I knew Oswald spoke Russian, you know, they were speaking a foreign language, let's put it this way. They were not saying a lot, but passing a few remarks that would be like 'good morning', 'how are you', you know, and then a little quip of some kind, and then laughter. One vivid time I remember, the laughter, and this impressed me because I thought gee whiz, here these guys speaking Russian, and telling jokes in Russian. Then there was the time I was walking back from chow with my hands in my pocket across the field and I heard somebody yell out 'Hey, you, Winston Smith, the serial number business, some number and 'hey, get your hands out of your pockets' - toward the end of 1984 there is a voice that is watching behind the TV cameras, watching Smith for something - and I thought that was rather funny for him to be that sharp and pick that up. Then there was a time when Nelson Delgado was in my hut, along with a guy named Gordy something, Helms, I think, and I don't remember who else, so

Delgado in a very excitable voice said "I know a man in this outfit who subscribes to a newspaper from Moscow", and I said who, and he said Oswald, and I said, oh well .... well, Oswald naturally, you would expect him to do it - well this was something he did to attract suspicion to himself or resulted in attracting suspicion to himself. Lt. Delpardro, they asked me if it was Delprado, but since then I checked it out with CITCO in the outfit and learned that it was Delpardro, this Lt. Delpardro who, everytime I got around that guy I did something stupid like I walked in the operations center one time and had a cigar in my mouth and walked into him and nearly burned his nose, things like that, I saluted him one morning and said good evening, sir - things like that. He was an excitable, high charging little Lt. And I think he is the one mentioned to me, and there is that thing, and the thing about the Russian newspaper, and a few other incidents regarding Oswald. We got into some discussions, I know this, I don't know how many discussions I have had, I have memories of different things, it seems to me that the Secret Service said to me did he say anything ever about assassinating anybody, and I said the only thing I can remember along that line/<sup>is</sup>that the leaders of nations should do without rather than fight it out, that sort of method, I have no .... a couple of bits of conversation like that which impressed me and this



Marxist theory and history, but most of it was - we had had discussions and there were guys sitting around and sometimes we would be in the record room and we would be sitting there alone.

JUROR:

At the time you said he was receiving Russian newspapers, did you ever see one?

A. No, I never did, but I got the impression that it was very universally known around the outfit, it wasn't just scuttlebutt.

Q. Was it spelled out in English or in Russian?

A. I don't know, I did not see the newspapers myself, there were so many guys around the outfit who said this, nobody said that was just a rumor, it wasn't the kind of thing you hear one or two times.

Q. Did he tell you about any particular articles he might have read?

A. No, but I got the impression from talking to him, and I don't know if I ever asked him do you subscribe to a Russian newspaper? What impression I got was that he was interested in what was going on in Russia. I didn't think he was interested enough to go there.

MR. ALCOCK:

Q.

Did he ever mention that he was from New Orleans?

A. No. I had no idea he was from Texas, he had no southern

accent. There were a lot of them with southern accents in the Marine Corps and a lot of people who aren't from the south fall into a little bit of a southern accent from being around them, but I don't know, I don't remember anything about his personal life, I don't think that matters where a guy is from. But he didn't get personal, he wasn't that kind of a guy, he didn't get warm, he didn't get friendly, he didn't go into details about this, that and the other thing.

Q. Did you ever ask him where he was from?

A. I don't ask people usually where they are from because I am not particularly interested, I get to talking to them about things, and if they interest me with the idea we are discussing I get into a big discussion with them about that. But I don't think it matters where a guy is from. I think a lot of this comes from California, someone will say 'hey, here's another guy from California', and I will say 'so what', a lot of people are from California, where people were from did not interest me.

Q. How long were you and he together at El Toro?

A. About 3 months, I know that I arrived in Japan on July 4th, when I left the states I don't know.

Q. In 1959?

A. I arrived in July 4, 1959 because there was a squadron party

going on that day, and there were beer cans all over the barracks, and even on the Fourth of July you never beer cans on the floor in the U. S. so I walked in and thought anarchy, I just couldn't believe it.

Q. Did Oswald arrive there too?

A. No, Oswald had been there previously. And one thing Oswald had said to me 'wait until you get overseas', because some where along the line word came through that I would be going overseas and I did not have enough time to go overseas, and finally I had 13 months left in the Marine Corps so I figured they wouldn't have time to send me overseas so I didn't put in for overseas duty that month and they sent me.

JUROR:

How long did you stay in the service?

A. Two years on that active duty period and there was a 3 months in boot camp and a reserve obligation which was going to meetings on the weekend which I got all done before I went on active duty, but I didn't have any afterwards except standby for reserve for a little while. Maybe I just got out or they waived a little bit of my obligations.

Q. That is why I was wondering. You said they moved you from MAX 9, then you went overseas.

A. They moved me out of the outfit because I did not have enough time to go overseas and then they sent me overseas. Well, I

think MAX 4 left for overseas after I was sent, I think  
by the time the bureaucracy/<sup>business</sup>got around to - I am not sure,  
but I think that's what happened.

Q. Wasn't 9 returned?

A. No, let me explain this, this is very weird. Some outfits  
function on this process of sending a whole outfit everywhere,  
MAX 8 was this way, and MAX 4 was this way. MAX 9 was not this  
way and MAX 1 was not this way. MAX 1 had been in the Far  
East for 14 years when I got over there. They had been in  
Japan and a dozen or so guys had been arriving every month  
and a dozen or so guys had been getting yanked out of it, and  
this way it kept its very salty wartime personality, that's  
why it was such a wide-open outfit and there was so little  
discipline. The enlisted men ran that outfit. It was a  
critical outfit, what ever they wanted they all stuck together  
and the CO did not push it. Some guy had figured this out a  
long time ago, new men came into the outfit and they learned,  
new Sgts. came into the outfit and started pushing people around  
and they learned, finally toward the end, we got a new CO, and  
when he took over and didn't understand what was going on there  
were riots in the barracks, just a real wide-open thing, pushing  
over lockers and this sort of thing. Then they disbanded the  
outfit and/<sup>we</sup>went down to the Philippines and/<sup>they</sup>transferred on paper

to Yuma, Arizona and disbursed us to other outfits. I don't know whether they did this to break up the outfit because of the riots, I don't know if they were reported by the CO because he thought maybe they would make him look bad, I don't know what happened about that, all I know is we got to the Philippines, and after the first month in the Philippines MAX 1 was for all practical purposes - they called it a transfer - but it was disbanded. And they started a new MAX 1.

MR. SCIAMBRA:

Q. In other words, at the time you went to Atsugi Oswald was about to get a discharge?

A. Yes. And most of these guys in 9 had come back from the Far East. It was a kind of receiving company.

Q. Did you ever ask Oswald how he come to learn Russian?

A. No.

Q. Did he ever mention about studying Russian at Atsugi?

A. No. This signed statement I filled out on that subject is strictly on the basis of my own experience. I don't know. I never asked him where he learned it, we never discussed things like that. We discussed capitalism, communism, Marine Corps, Atheism vs. the guys who trying to convert us, the U.S.

Q. Did he ever give you any indication that he might be in the Intelligence Corps of the Marines?

A. This is one of the things that got me paranoid about this whole business. If Oswald was a secret agent, he was a good

one. He was such a good one. He gave me the impression that he just couldn't ..... well, about the assassination, you know we got to talking, shooting the bull, after they questioned me and I don't know whether they asked me or whether I brought it up, you know, people are thinking that guy pulled off an assassination and he couldn't even keep his shoes shined, he was one of these intellectuals who was intelligent as far as talking went but when it came to doing some simple little thing like keeping himself out of trouble like getting ready for tomorrow's inspection he was too busy sitting around shooting the bull or reading like this to get interested in. Then he would get in trouble and then he would get angry. He just wasn't down to earth, that is the impression you got.

Q. Would you say Oswald was an intelligent person?

A. Yes, very intelligent. I disagreed with him about a lot of things, but I thought he was very intelligent.

Q. Isn't it contrary or contradictory for a person, intelligent enough to learn a difficult language could be such a goof-off.

A. No, because I am very much the same as Oswald in a lot of ways and when I wrote my book I felt that I understood him because I was a lot like him in a lot of ways. One of the things - like when I went overseas by the time I was ready to come back I was practically ready to join the Communist Party

because of what I had seen overseas. And it was just the disillusionment with the political virginity thing, like "I Like Ike" - the little bit to the left of Ike, this type of thing. You know, I liked Ike, but I got over there and I saw marines beating up taxicab drivers, and all types of things like this. I saw some guys with a stick jabbing at a guy down in a junk, and some guys threw garbage at a man in Formosa and heard about guys for no reason slugging civilians, particularly in Taiwan because they could get away with it because their government was so interested in kissing up to the United States government that the officers saluted the Marine enlisted men. I saw this kind of thing happening, and it was the kind of thing that this is not free China and I did not think the Peoples' Republic of China was free either but I knew this wasn't free China. It was a dictatorship. And I saw the way the Marines acted on liberty in Japan and you asked them why they did it and they said because we can get away with it over here. And in the Philippines, it was like the Japanese people, such courteous people - after they had been there for fourteen months they didn't act that way because gradually the Japanese - they would respect these people, but the boots who would go over there for the first several months would, a lot of them, not all of them, but there were always those guys who would go out and think it real funny to kick people around. Just because they were different. Just because the dumb goop, we been over here 14 months and they can't speak English, this attitude. And I am sure Oswald saw that and by the time Oswald defected to the Soviet Union I had a pretty good idea of why he defected. I was beginning to understand. If he did decide to become a communist and go join the Russians I would understand. You know, this is great, I can explain this and I can also expose the whole rotten mess - I had read the "Ugly American" and it was that kind of thing.

Q. After you separated from the Marine Corps did you correspond with Oswald or he with you?

A. No. I mentioned to Bud, right after he defected, I said 'let's write him a letter', and he said 'oh yea, we'll write him a letter care of the American Embassy, that is a stupid thing to do' - I was reading a book on Lenin and just because I was

interested, but one day I was at Max 4, before I went overseas and just sitting there reading and there was a Sgt. sitting at a desk across the way and he started making cracks, what was I, some sort of communist, reading about that guy. Guys in the Marine Corps felt if you were informed about things like that you were subversive and there were also a lot of guys in the outfit, particularly overseas, who were openly sympathetic with communism. I can remember two very vividly and I have the impression that there were others. It was that our side was so screwed up that anything against this mess had to be right, it was not an ideological type of thing where they went around following party line or anything, it was just I am going to join the Russians, they are going to win, you know. And then of course it was the Russians who were the big enemy not the Chinese.

JUROR:

When did you find out about Oswald going to the Russians?

A. Page 3 of the Stars & Stripes. Just after he did it. There was an article here about Lee H. Oswald, and I think it was the H. I remembered him as Lee H. Oswald and I didn't know his middle name was Harvey, which is what they started calling him.

Q. How did you know when he came back?

Los Angeles

A. My folks sent me a clipping from the ~~Knoxville~~ Times about an ex-marine loses love for Russia, and I was living in New Orleans at the time and I got this clipping and he was going to be in Dallas so I wrote my folks and said I think I will go visit him sometime because I had written "Idle Warrior" and I had finished it and I had shown it to Jessica, my girl friend, and one of the things she criticized about it, she said you know I think you ought to have Shelbourne getting on the boat going to Russia and I said I can't write about that because I don't know about it unless you are willing to do a hell of a lot of research.

Q. How did your family know Oswald?

A. I wrote them and told them when he defected and went over to Russia, they wrote back and said it was horrible and hard to understand why anyone would do a thing like that. That is



when I realized how I was getting out of touch with my own background. Because it wasn't hard at all for me to understand.

MR. SCIAMBRA:

Did your parents know that your book, "The Idle Warrior" was patterned after Marine Corps experiences with Oswald?

A. I think they did, they read it after I wrote it.

Q. Did Oswald know you were patterning the book after him?

A. I hope not, I wrote the book loosely in New Orleans, right after I came here, mostly it was written in notebooks, I would go out and write sitting in bars in pencil, I would just write, the first notebooks I filled with everything that came into my mind so some things were dull and flighty, I was just writing and basically they were real live experiences with the names changed. I had just been to the States on this temporary additional duty and I was in San Francisco waiting to back over to Japan and was reading "The Dark Bombs" by Jack \_\_\_\_\_ and I was very much influenced by this subconsciously because when I was overseas that is the way I was writing, just anything, just putting it down, everything. Just real life and changing the names.

Q. Did you meet anyone overseas who knew Oswald?

A. Oh yes. Bud Simpco went over with me.

Q. Did he know Oswald? Anybody in Japan, I mean.

A. I don't know that, but people came in the outfit who had known ... well, the thing about it, the secret clearance and I had been hitting my head against the wall on this thing, everybody I know who knows Garrison closely keep telling me that this is one of the things and for me to calm down, and you know ...

Q. Before you get into that, would you explain what secret clearance means?

A. As far as I know in MAX 9 I had confidential clearance, I think a confidential clearance as I recall is a sort of thing that automatically gave you .. I don't remember having to apply for a loyalty oath or something ....

JUROR:

Did you have to fill out long forms?

A.

Probably, but I don't think I had to go through a waiting period. A confidential clearance did not mean a lot, but you had to have one in order to go into the bubble which was this AC or CA, or whatever, an aircraft control center where we worked with radar scopes and big radar with lights under the \_\_\_\_\_ so you could write on it backwards chart the plans and you have a big board out there showing and charting the planes as they moved across the scope and there would be an officer sitting in the back with a telephone and a hot line and all this around to light any unidentified aircraft that came into the area, he could pick up the phone and say such and such an aircraft carrier at such a point. Another interesting thing about the U-2, we were in Japan, and this is rumor, a Sgt. and my impression is probably foreign, agreed with this that once in a while you would have this aircraft come in on the scope and he would call it in and say it was in and they would say there is no aircraft at that position, and he would say yes there is. And they would say 'repeat, there is no aircraft at that position'. And you were supposed to get the idea. And that was one of the things, everybody figured that was the Black Bird. It was very high speed at very high altitude.

Q. Was secret clearance higher than confidential clearance?

A.

First is your confidential clearance which they give to you when they give you a PFC stripe, secret clearance you have to apply for. When I was overseas they ordered us all to apply for secret clearance somewhere along the line. I knew that if I applied for secret clearance it would be more work for me and the same amount of pay and by then I was a pacifist and being in the Marine Corps, being in any outfit was basically wrong so I was not going out of my way to help and I was developing this Marxist-Leninist streak because I was seeing a people's outfit, the PFC, and as far as I was concerned I was better off in that kind of an outfit than I was where the brass ran it .....

Q. Do you remember filling out a long sheet, about 4 pages, with all your background material, where you live, dates, etc.?

- A. No, I don't remember doing that in the Marine Corps. But I do remember they told us we would have to apply for secret clearance, I didn't particularly want it so I put down Harry Morton, a friend of mine, was on the verge of becoming a communist then, I figured if I put him down - and I put this other friend down who was a homosexual, that was a bad thing, and I don't who else I put down but I put somebody else down, I put down people that I thought would be poor security risks, and I was the first person in the outfit to get my secret clearance, and I didn't want to be bothered. There is the possibility that they gave it to me to see what I would do.
- Q. Was that the highest you could go?
- A. No. Above that, I don't know what there is immediately above that, then there is top secret, and there is all kinds of different secret clearances. You can have all kinds of secret information that is necessary to do your job, that you need to know.
- Q. What did this enable you to do? What would a clearance enable a person to do?
- A. Well, a person - I never quite figured out why they made us all apply for secret clearance because what I understood was it had something to do with the bubble, but I never found out anything about this new equipment, that I remember vividly. Maybe a little red box on the side of the scope, or something.
- Q. Did you ever ask Oswald, or did it ever occur to you as peculiar that a person such as Oswald who had been to Atsugi and spoke Russian and spoke openly about the benefits of communism and subscribed to Russian newspapers could get secret clearance?
- A. When I first heard that Oswald had secret clearance, I believe it was shortly after his defection, a matter of maybe a month or so, and a new man came in the outfit from El Toro from MAX 9, and it hit the fan when Oswald defected, they changed all the call signals, they had a big investigation, they pulled everybody in and questioned them, the last chapter of "The Idle Warrior" was like this, the guy who defected. Well,

this is what I heard, somewhere along there I said does he have some clearance that matters, it was around there that somebody said he worked for the S & C, was a clerk for the Secret and Confidential, this for all the secret information which was kept in a little room and one Lt. in charge of that room and he had one assistant, the S & C clerk, and that assistant was cleared for at least secret, he had to be to work there, top secret or not, but he carried these files with him, he was the runner, and he carried these files to this place and that place, so he had to have some sort of clearance, since he was entrusted with these files.

Q. This was in Japan?

A. This was both places. I heard at El Toro that he had been an S & C clerk while in Japan, and this to me did not strike me as strange, it struck me as very typical, this was the type of thing I was seeing all over the place, that figured, they would give secret clearance to some new guy who would defect that was the way they were doing things, all the time.

Q. The Marine Corps cannot be in that bad shape?

A. It was at Tsugi particularly, MAX 1 it did not fit, it did not fit MAX 9, the guys in the infantry whenever they see somebody from the AIR WING, sailors or any of them they feel the same way - the Marines feel the same way about the AIR WING, only more so. Because they are so lax and they get away with anything. And the AIR WING think think the guys in the Infantry are crazy.

JUROR:

How many men are you talking about, 200 or 300?

A. About 200, maybe 300.

Q. And all goof-offs?

A. No, not all of them, but those who did not were given a hard time. Particularly MAX 1 - sorry, but that is the way it was. When I got to MAX 1 there were beer cans all over the barracks floor and that night was the Fourth of July and you figure well, maybe it is a little lax, but guys were yelling around and

singing and it was after taps, you know. Sgt. Tracy came out, he was on duty, he came walking out of the CO room and said 'hey you guys', and somebody yelled "CO walks on water", which meant that if he pushed it he would be carried outside and thrown into this fire thing which was full of stagnant water for fire to be sprayed on the barracks. And I thought oh man what will happen now, and he turned around and walked into the CO room and shut the door, and that was the end of it, you know, scared to death. And I thought what kind of an outfit is this?

MR. SCIAMBRA:

Q. Does Tsugi have a reputation of being an intelligence post?

A. Well, the U-2 was in and out all the time. They gave us a security lecture shortly after I got there. The Chief, I think he was a Naval Instructor, gave us a security lecture and he said if you people want to get in trouble, you want to get your ass in trouble you walk over to the hangar where they keep the black airplane, he said you don't see that black airplane, you don't talk about that black airplane, that black airplane isn't there, you forget about that airplane.

Q. Which would give you some idea that the Tsugi Base was a pretty highly .....

A. Well, it gave the impression - everybody immediately started talking about the black airplane, what is it, and we started calling it the Black Bird and the mystery plane and one guy I remember looking up one day and saying 'yep, \_\_\_\_\_'. I had not seen the plane yet, I was new in Japan and this gunny said to us, you want to get in trouble you just go and mess around with that black airplane.

Q. Did Oswald ever mention anything about the U-2 flights?

A. No, that was something that wasn't even in my world, even if he did mention it I would not have known what he was talking about, I did not know about the U-2 until I got over there. My assumption was that it was an experimental aircraft of some kind, but why are they doing it in Japan, oh well, I just shrugged it off. This U-2, when it broke, was one of the things that nearly pushed me over the brink, not only had Ike lied, but to the troops and I was naive enough that I was shocked by this.

Q. You knew Oswald was on the ball?

A. Yes, I was beginning to think so. I did not like to think so in many ways, but I was forced to, and the thing is that when you get out of one cage and you have one set of ideas and you start falling apart, the first thing you do is look for something else, you feel insecure when your world falls from under you. The black airplane was really symbolic of it. We were down in the Philippines when that broke, just about to go back to Japan, and when that business broke it was just like .... I had seen it land a number of times and had seen it take off and had wondered about it, and now I find out its this sneaky kind of deal with the President of the United States who has lied about it and I think that black airplane is symbolic of the whole thing about American society, we have black airplanes, things that we don't talk about, we don't see, we aren't supposed to mention, yet everybody can see it, everybody can see the shadow on the ground - I came to the States on temporary duty around September, let's see when was it, 19... 59, and when I got back overseas somebody said 'remember when one cracked in a rice paddy and the Japanese Government got all excited and wanted to know about the black airplane with no markings on it', and it turned out that I didn't remember it was I had been in the States before.

Q. Did you hear any rumors about the CIA operating out of Atsugi?

A. I am not sure I had heard of the CIA? I had heard a lot about CID, the service supply organization, while I was in boot camp and a Sgt. would beat up on a recruit, bloody him up and everything only to learn he was a Colonel or a Captain or something, was a CID man, and when this happened you always heard about it.

Q. When did you get out of the Marine Corps?

A. I got out on Sept. 30 or Oct. 1 of 1960.

Q. What did you do then?

A. I went home for a year, I had some discharge money coming which

which I was waiting around for and I had a little money when I got out. The first thing I did was I started to go into business for myself, I rented an answering service, it was a lecture service sort of thing, I figured that the way to make money was to spend money, I had read Mike Todd's biography or something, I rented an electric typewriter when I got my check. That is when I sat down - the very first thing I did was buy a ticket for Manila for \$400- and something dollars. My big ambition, I fell in love with the City of Manila, I just loved it. I just loved the Philippines. People in the Philippines could all speak English and they were fantastically pro-American at that time because Americans had liberated them from the Japanese, and if you were an American you were a good guy, let me buy you a beer, and we found out they were hospitable and we were told that you could walk from one end of the island to the other and the people would take care of you if you were an American and we had experienced - another thing, a friend of mine was on some kind of gravel run, out into - to help these people prepare for the floods, and it turned out that this gravel run was to help these people and they had some public information people taking pictures - anyway, he was supposed to have been punished and he turned out to be a great big hero and it was played up in the press as going out on his own time, bending his back and helping out these people prepare for the flood. And he got drunk one day and went out and made a big speech and told them he was going back to the States and urge his friends to come to the Philippines. He was just the fair haired boy.

Q. Had you finished the "Idle Warrior" by that time?

A. By which time?

Q. By the time you got out of the Marine Corps?

A. I had written a .... when I got back from .... the whole thing ... I knew as soon as I went over there that I was going to write a book, I didn't know what it was going to be about, but when I got over there I gradually began to piece together what it would be about, and when I got back from the Technique Instruction proposition and - in the fall then I started dropping word to my friends that I was

going to write a book and then when Oswald defected I knew what I was going to write about. I was going to take a hypothetical Marine who was going to start off very wide-eyed and I was going to end him up in Russia.

Q. Did you ever contact Oswald in Russia?

A. No.

Q. Did you contact him when he came back from Russia? Were you in California at that time?

A. When Oswald came back from Russia I was in New Orleans on Barracks St.

Q. Were you aware<sup>of</sup> it when he returned to the United States?

A. Yes, I got this clipping from my parents, I have a copy of it at home.

Q. Did you try to contact him then?

A. No, several times, like when he went to Russia I said to my buddy, let's write to him, but where would we write, care of the American Embassy? What would happen to us?

Q. How did you decide to come to New Orleans from California?

A. Greg Hill and I were in my house one night, about midnight, now let me get back to this, I had bought this ticket for Manila and I decided that I wouldn't be able to make it because I would not have money after I got there, money just to get there, and I wanted some money for downtown in Manila, so ....

JUROR:

One question we didn't get an answer to. You talked about Oswald in Japan, to other members of the Marine Corps?

A. Yes.

Q. Why?

A. He defected to the Soviet Union. It was a big thing.



You know, somebody went over to the other side. It was in all the papers. You see a lot of people in the outfit had known him too. Bud Simpco had known him, I knew him, there was somebody else that came who knew him ....

Q. Was Heidel over there at the time?

A. No, Heidel had been in Japan, I think, and was going out like Oswald. Heidel I didn't know very well at all ...

Q. How many men were there?

A. Well, let's see. You had a large front room, you had two side rooms, and in the side rooms you had 14 men, I think -

Q. Did you know any of them who bunked with Oswald?

A. No, I didn't. I didn't even <sup>know</sup> which hut he lived in. I didn't know anything personal about him at all, just shooting the bull with him. I heard he had all kinds of books, Russian, in his little room, but I didn't see them.

Q. Where did you get a copy of "1984"?

A. It was a paperback. I could have picked it up on the newstand. Oswald could have given me his copy. Some of the other guys in the outfit read it too. The Lenin book I bought. You see I was very hung up .... I had some friends with the First Unitarian Church in Los Angeles and they started taking me down there and they had a wonderful speaker and he was coming out with all these ideas to the left, I was gradually drifting over this way without thinking about it, I was going to the Church because I liked the girl and this was Sylvia Borden, and this is a very interesting thing, this girl was mentioned by the Warren Commission testimony, and they asked me about her and the reason she was mentioned was ... my ... maybe I better mention that when I talk about the assassination and the FBI here in New Orleans ... to get back to the Unitarian Church, they said 'the Unitarian Church, who else was there? Who else did you go with?', and I said 'a girl named Sylvia Borden', and they said 'Oswald was with you, right?', I said no. So it was a misunderstanding on both of our parts. The thing was that Jenner brought this up and I think I had established in Kennedy's mind, up there, that this was not particularly relevant. We were going to the Unitarian Church

and I was hung up on a couple of things, I was hung up on one thing and that was logic and morality. I was reading this book called on humanism and I read a little later 1894 and then a book on Lenin, I wanted to find out about Lenin, it wasn't a particularly complimentary book on Lenin it was written by this Sgt.

Q. Kerry, do you remember the exact date you left California with Greg to come to New Orleans?

A. We arrived in February, the day after Mardi Gras.

A. February, 1961?

A. Let me make absolutely sure now. We got out of the bus station here ... let me go back to when I got out of the Marine Corps and bring you up to this point. OK? So I can tell everything in the past so this will make sense.

Q. OK.

A. I bought this ticket to Manila then I decided not to go because I would not have any money when I got there, so I was going to make my money then I would go to Manila, so I cashed in my ticket, which I think was \$400.00 and I moved in with a friend of mine, Bobby Newport in Whittier becoming his roommate and I started this "Idle Warrior", I wrote the first five chapters and delivered a lecture on it at a woman's club and I sent out free tickets to all the civic organizations in the southern California area and I was going to give a monologue, it was the thing - kind of a combination between a lecture and a play, it was the first few experiences and how it was like when you first arrived in Japan, the new guys just arrived, Shelbourne with his eyes wide open, the booze hound, and being so' impressed by it all, and this sort of thing, so I just locked myself in a room with a pot of coffee and a lot of cigars and got it in shape. I went down and delivered and the night I scheduled it for was the first night of the Nixon-Kennedy thing and just about 34 people showed up. I did not have money enough to go through another one so I just - well, forgot about that. Then Greg and I were going to put out an off-campus humor magazine which we called the "Apocalypse", we put out one issue, we sold advertising for it, we put it out free and sold the advertising, and nobody thought it was funny, things we thought were funny, but nobody else did. So we went to

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my house and we were laughing and we woke up my folks and we were disturbing them so we went over to Greg's house and we sat around, Greg is a real character, so we went over to his house and got to laughing and woke up his family and so we <sup>we went</sup> to downtown Whittier where nobody could possibly be disturbed and we were walking down one of the main drags in downtown Whittier talking to each other and the cops pull up and they say - first they fill out a little card on us and they say the next time you get caught doing this during these odd hours you will be arrested for vagrancy. Greg said but I live here, they said that doesn't matter, unusual hours and no purpose in mind. After they drove away I said let's go some place where it is not against the law to stay up all night and he said I want to live in San Francisco, New York or New Orleans' French Quarter. So I said we won't be able to get enough money to go to New York, we can get there but we won't have enough money to live on until we can get a job, and San Francisco is closer to Whittier than New Orleans, so let's go to New Orleans. So we got on the bus and went to New Orleans. We got off the bus and I said why do you want to live in the French Quarter, and he said you wanted to come down here. So the first place we went was - we got a map, and saw the French Quarter went that way, so we went out and finally we were sitting down in Lafayette Sq. thinking we were in Jackson Sq. and we sat around and we talked about what we should do. I wanted to put our suitcases in a locker in the bus terminal and take showers at the YMCA and all this for a few days and look for an apartment, get a good apartment, and he wanted to get an apartment right away and finally I said well I must admit the reason is on your side. You see coming back from Japan I read this book which had shot some of my Marx-Leninist out from under me, and I was on a new kick, I read Atlas Shrug by Ayn Rand and I was a capitalist, and his argument was more important so we went up to 9 something Camp Street, Francis Landry is the landlord, and we rented an apartment that was just off Lee Circle for \$10.00 a week and it was a dungeon, it was cold and wet, damp place, and we said we suppose this place has hot water and Landry never answered us, and there was no hot water, we had to go in back and there was a shower in back, but the water was cold, then Greg was a hard person to live with, he was even more chaotic

than I am, and I am pretty messy, he would leave the iron on the ironing board overnight and burned a hole in the cover, left the defroster on in the icebox and flooded the kitchen - all of these things, so I moved out, just above a place called Fred's Inn on St. Charles and that is where I began to work on "The Idle Warrior". I got a post office box and I was writing each of these chapters as a short story, then I was sending those out to magazines hoping to sell one and support myself while I was writing this book by selling the chapters. And I was getting a fantastic collection of rejection slips. Pretty soon I ran out of food money and finally the first job I applied for I had grown a beard in California and the first job I applied for several weeks earlier with Foster Awming Company and it came through and was a telephone job. I had gone 4 days without eating now when it came through. So I started eating now and I was happy to get it. I worked about 4 hours a day five days a week and got about \$20.00 take home pay and was able to eat for a while and I moved back with Greg, then finally I also put in for my unemployment from the Marine Corps and I finally put in for that, I was philosophically opposed to this but I didn't have any choice, so I went over there and they said OK then the unemployment had started coming through and we moved to the French Quarter and got an apartment on St. Louis Street from a Mrs. George, the landlady, and we were on the third floor there.

Q. Do you remember the block?

A. Right over the Napoleon House, right down the middle here, called the Buccaneer Apartments, but I think the name is changed now, and she broke open a wall while we were there and they were remodeling and they found an old safe inside it had been broke open and they thought it was an old Confederate safe or something, they found some burned papers inside, but they found out that one of the wreckers had burned some trash there, and they had taken the papers down to the Vieux Carre Commission thinking they were something historic. But I remember that really impressed me, tearing down the wall and finding the old safe in the house. Really neat, things like that happening. Then we started going to this - we got acquainted with people in the Quarter and would go to these discussions every Friday night, it was an open house on Bourbon Street. And I met a girl there named Ola

Hogan and I got to know her and we got to be close friends and then we developed a conflict of some kind, I don't know, over different things but we remained friendly then I started going with Jessica, I started going with her late summer of '61 and I went with her for about a year and half then during this time that we were at Mrs. George's house I was working on the "Idle Warrior" and all my free time I would think out a chapter in my head and then write it down after I got some pages done. Then I would go out for coffee and I was writing these chapters and sending them off and got half-way through and just was using postage money - and some time during that time and place I finished the draft, the first draft, except for the last couple of chapters.

Q. Would you say this was 1962?

A. No, it was that winter - wait a minute - no, I stopped working on it, it was not finished yet, but mostly finished. It was finished enough to know that I would finish it. I stopped working on it, remember after we moved, we moved up to the second apartment, a bigger apartment, that was near the end of the summer, that was when I started going with Jessica and Greg went back to California to go to school, to state school, and so I wasn't working on the "Idle Warrior", I was reading parts of it to Jessica and she was going to type it for me and she typed about two chapters ....

Q. Where was your money coming from?

A. I was drawing unemployment for a while and I was working for the Foster Awning Company, getting \$20.00 from them, and then I remember I had a terribly rough period and one night I ended up selling hot dogs on the corner. Meanwhile I had this big breakup with Ola, and I went and shaved off my beard and it was easier to get a job after that, and I ended up selling hot dogs on Louis & Bourbon one night and then I got this job from American Photocopy & Equipment Co. in Kenner as a telephone solicitor calling business, and this I didn't mind too much as it is not an invasion of privacy calling on businesses, I really enjoyed my work out there and I was making something like \$60.00 or \$70.00 a week then and that is when I started hiring a typist. Finally a girl named ....

Q. What was the name of the Company?

American Photocopy & Equipment Company, the manager's name was Floyd Simmons, 1636 Airline Highway, next to the Airport out there. I was making that money and I didn't want to type it again, and right now I didn't want to look at it for a while, I wanted to get it in book form, it had been all these short stories and this is when I started having it typed and wrote the last chapter which was the chapter about the investigation, the defection. Now why I had waited on that I don't remember, I had waited for some reason or other. The girl who ended up typing this was Joyce Talley, she lived out of the Quarter someplace and she typed it for me. By this time I was living on Napoleon Avenue, two places I lived on Napoleon Avenue, and I am not sure which one this was, it was down in the basement sort of thing, one was on one side of Freret and one was on the other side of Freret. Mrs. Silvers, my landlady, the Russian Speaking landlady, to the right of Napoleon Avenue and she was about half a block down. And it was a nice little apartment.

Q. Was she toward the River or the Lake?

A. Toward the Lake about half way up the block there, and I had a downstairs apartment in front there and it was right up there around the corner and she was living with her parents and This is when I was getting the final draft of the typing and I discovered the pages had been numbered wrong and I was very impatient. I had been fighting staff CO's in the Marine Corps and all of a sudden I had nobody to fight and I was looking for somebody to fight with about my ideas and nobody would fight with me, they would just evade me if possible and the only ones I could get to argue with me were drunks and so I remember I got real upset about the pages, a little thing. I lived there for a long time then I was at the McBee place for a little while and I had something happen, I lost the job out at the American Photo Company, I did not lose the job, they did away with their telephone soliciting. But Floyd told me I could come out there and work on a commission basis so we figured out this deal where I could come out and call up and if I made a sale I would get \$5.00, so I started working on this and I did pretty well and then I began to think about setting up my own business and I was playing around with this idea and very gradually I discovered I wasn't going to make any money, by ~~this~~ time I knew Robin and Grace Petterman in the Quarter and Jessica and I knew them, and we became very close friends, and we got the idea one day, just after The

Rider had opened up we went in and in order to make it more depressing they went around shooting cracks in the wall before they opened, it was a coffee house, and cockroaches were running around, so we finally said why coffee house, why not a key club, so <sup>we</sup> got the idea of all chipping in, I was going to put in \$20.00, on the rent, and I forget what the others would, but a total of \$50.00 for the rent, and we got this place on Barracks Street, I think we got it through Blackshear, I am not sure, and I was going to be the custodian and live there for \$20.00 a month so I moved in there then there was a period of time when I did not have a job again then I got a job at Fox Photo Company, it lasted just a short while because it turned out that they had lost the account then I got a job at Marks Isaacs selling shoes for Mr. Weiss and at first I did not think well of it but after a while ... I am not the type who can sell things, I don't like that, I resent it myself when I go in a store and someone comes up and bugs me and says buy this, buy that, so I worked real well for a while, I was working on a commission basis, and I gradually got worse and worse and also have to stretch the truth a little bit here and a little bit there in selling these shoes and it carried over into my my personal life, I found that the more I lied selling shoes the better I could do at it and I was encouraged because I didn't call it lying and I caught myself telling whoppers to my friends so I decided to quit and I did not have another job and I think I came back there for a short time and this time I did not tell him goodbye or anything, I just walked out. So this made it hard for me to get another job and I went on another of these starvation kicks.

Q. What time period are we in now?

A. March 1962 to May 1962.

Q. What was Mr. Weiss' first name?

A. Oh wait, what was it .... Hal, Hal Weiss, I am pretty sure it was. No, I am thinking of Hal Weisberg, it was .... I just don't remember it. OK, then I quit about March then there was a period when Vic Latham and I sat around and he would go out and borrow cigarette money from somebody, and once a day he would manage to borrow cigarette money from somebody, and would sit around smoking, his brand was Luckies. I kept applying for jobs and people kept putting me off they said call me back next week and in a couple of days and it was getting to be



really, you know. I was getting to be hungry and didn't know what was going to happen to me, and once in a while we would get up 15¢ and go to market and buy a loaf of bread and go get Vic's roommate who had a jar of jelly and we would put jelly on the bread and drink water and sit around and philosophize. Finally Vic got a job with a theatre group called "Way Off Broadway" here in the Quarter. This Bill Schmidt was a real con man but Vic knew this as he had worked for him before, so he warned me and said just make sure you get your money and make sure he pays you in cash. He offered me \$80 dollars a week to put out posters for him and I started working for him too. Then Vic got  
a a job as waiter at the St. Charles and got me a job there too. He got me a job there as a busboy and in a little while I got a job as a waiter too. That job lasted until I went to California and took a leave of absence, then I came back. I did not get along with the guy in charge so I didn't stay there very long.

Q. When did you leave for California?

A. I left New Orleans and did not get off the bus all the way out, I went Continental Trailways and as I was going along the Mexican-California border from Yuma, Arizona to San Diego I saw fireworks, I knew it was the Fifth of May, I figured their Independence Day, whatever that is,

Q. The 5th of May, 1963?

A. Yes.

Q. I read in that thing you gave me yesterday that you wrote for Ramparts Magazine , you went to California by way of Dallas, Texas, right?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you stop off in Dallas that time?

A. No.

Q. Did the bus pass through Dallas?

A. Yes, yes. This is the thing. I was thinking as I was going

through Dallas, my folks sent me the money, and I was only thinking if I had the money to buy food for a couple of days I would stop and see Oswald. Because I did want to stop in Dallas sometime and see Oswald because I wanted to find out how he got to Russia so I could write that part for my book and to check out my theory how he became a communist and also if he was disillusioned with the Russian Union and I wanted to check all this stuff and find out what it was like over there, but I never did because I never did when I was on the bus and before I left New Orleans I knew I was not going to.

Q. How long did the bus ride last from New Orleans to San Diego? San Diego you said?

A. I don't know - yes, and then up from San Diego up through Los Angeles and finally ended in Whittier. I don't know how long it lasted because I get on a bus and I read and look out the window and sleep.

Q. But we are talking about a period of 3 to 4 days?

A. Oh yes. I can find out for you how long it lasted - back in Tampa Al Thompson, who was teaching me how to write at the time, and he is a creative writer and later he was going around telling everybody he taught me how to write, he was a former creative writer at the University of Arizona, and he wanted me to write character sketches, so I kept this journal as I went along, and I could tell you what hour I arrived in Dallas, I could tell you all of the points, the different points, and when I arrived at Yuma, and when I was coming from New Orleans I left early in the morning, no, I believe it was late at night, anyway it was dark when I left and I was sitting in the Exodus with Loy and we walked up to Bourbon Street ....

Q. Lloyd?

A. No, Loy Camp, Vic and Loy were probably my two closest friends, particularly at that time, still most people couldn't see through all this ideological stuff that I was having to push off and fight about but Loy and Vic were two people who could see wherein and could handle it, they did not get converted by it or offend me by not. So I got down Bourbon Street and was stopped by the police that night, they had me open my little

case, I was carrying all the clothes that I would need, I like to travel as light as I can and I was really proud that I had gotten everything I needed in this little artist satchel, and they stopped me and had me open the satchel and they looked at it and they were nice about it, they wanted to know where I was going, we were by the front of the place opposite the Opera House place, right about there .....

- Q. Any rate we are talking about the period May 1, or some time around there?
- A. Well, not May 1st, it would have been later than that, I think its a 3 day trip.
- Q. OK, May 2nd then. You said you were conscious that as you were going through Dallas if possible you would have liked to have had the opportunity to talk with Oswald?
- A. Yes, I had been saying this ever since Oswald came back to the States, when I go out to California, you know, I think I will stop and talk to him.
- Q. Did you make an attempt to contact him?
- A. No, I don't think I got off the bus, I don't think the bus made a rest stop in Dallas. Later, after the assassination I did get off the bus and went and looked at the Depository because at that time I was thinking what kind of a shot it was from the Book Depository to the Freeway.
- Q. Do you remember the address you were living at that time?
- A. Yes, I was living up here in a \$20.00 a month apartment, because I paid my rent up in advance, the corner of Royal and Dumaine.
- Q. Above the Lil' General Store?
- A. Yes, what is now the Lil' General Store. Its a little apartment with one light bulb in it.
- Q. Who did you live with there?
- A. I lived there alone. It was about 10 sq. feet, there was a bed in there and this is when I started doing all my writing

in the Bourbon House. I could not work in that place. I had a ladder and had a bed and that was about it. So I would go down to the Bourbon House and I would sit there usually over in the corner at a table and would sit there and write and I used that as an excuse not to write for a while and would sit and talk.

Q. Were you aware that Oswald was in New Orleans approximately a week before you left?

A. No, in fact I was not aware of that until you say it now.

Q. You had no opportunity to contact Oswald or he did not contact you when you arrived in New Orleans on April 24th?

A. No, I have said before and say again I never saw Oswald to my knowledge after that, after I left Atsugi, you know ....

Q. Not Atsugi?

A. No, El Toro, never after that.

Q. How long did you stay in California before you returned to New Orleans?

A. OK, now, I was sitting on a bus coming up from Mexico City and I had come back by way of Mexico City and had stopped off for approximately a week, I had a hundred dollars extra with me because I had loaned \$75.00, I think it was, to Vic Latham and he would be paying me that back and I had made a lot of money in California waiting tables, more than I had made in New Orleans, there was a lot more business, bigger restaurants, and so I used the extra money, as I knew I would have money waiting for me here, and I used the extra money to go to Mexico City as I had always wanted to go there ever since I began to study Spanish and I expected Mexico City to be like Manila, but it wasn't, I was disappointed, but as I was coming up on the bus I was sitting on the bus and I wrote this thing in my notebook and it was dated September 2nd, so I was on the bus coming from Mexico City to Montemoras on Sept. 2nd. Now I arrived in Montemoras in the afternoon and I got a vaccination, I might still have that card, no, I don't but anyway...

Q. Anyway, until you took the time to go to Mexico City you worked

in California as a waiter for approximately May until August?

A. Yes. You want to know the places I worked?

Q. Yes.

A. OK. First I worked at a place called The Lancers, across the street from Disneyland. I worked there as a busboy, they didn't have waiters, they had waitresses and busboys. And then I worked in a place in Whittier called X.X. Mitchell's, and a real weird thing happened there ....

JUROR:

How far is Anaheim from Whittier?

A. Not very far, maybe 20 miles, maybe less.

Q. Toward Los Angeles, or down?

A. More toward Orange County. Well, when I was in Anaheim I got a room in this hotel and it was the biggest hotel in Anaheim, where the busses stop, where the bus station was, but I don't remember the name, but it was a big white building, an old building right in the center of town, and there was a bus station of some kind downstairs. I stayed here for, oh, I don't know how long .....

Q. How much were you paying there?

A. For rent? I don't remember. Usually I don't remember rent unless its very high or very low. And I stayed at this hotel for a while and I don't remember how long I worked there but I eventually decided for some reason - and then I got a job in Whittier as a waiter and I worked there at X.X.Mitchell's and then all of a sudden I got fired, and it was a weird thing because they wouldn't say why - and I never had this happen before and I had been flighty and jumped from job to job, but always I knew what the reason was, but this guy told his guy next in command that I would not work out, and I think only two waiters were there, the rest of them were waitresses. I got fired there and I went up to this place called The Trappers and got a job, in LaJolla, which is right next to him and I worked there a while and the same thing happened.

MR. ALCOCK:

No reason again?

A. Well, he told the guy who came to me and said "Mr. Bullard told me you are getting fired because you are too slow, but there are waiters around here who are much slower than you are, and I don't understand it". Well, I didn't understand it either. But I don't know, but I think this might be relevant now, because I got fired here was why I decided to go back to Mexico, back to New Orleans through Mexico at that time. If I had kept that job longer I would have stayed about another month. Because I got fired - well, you know - a hundred dollars extra - my parents took me to Tia Juana, we went down to San Diego and visited some people, then I went to the border and they gave me a tourist card and I got on a bus and went to Mexico City.

Q. After the Trappers' job?

A. Yes, after I got fired within a week.

Q. How long were you in Mexico? Mexico City?

A. About a week. The thing about Mexico City, I got a place in the ~~Marlin~~ Hotel down there and I didn't go to Tschultipec or Xochilmilcho, I didn't go to any of these tourist attractions, I just walked around in the streets, that is the way you find out about a city, I just walked around and went to the Pan-Am Building, Mexico City was just not what I had expected, it was industrial, it was westernized, too much like a sub-United States, not a bit like Manila, it had a little bit of color to it, but it wasn't real rich, not fabulous, so I remember it really hit home with me when I went to an American movie down there, and I rarely go to movies anyway, they are boring, and then I got on the bus and I came up to Houston, well I came by way of Houston back to New Orleans.

Q. You remember the date you left Mexico City?

A. September 2nd I was on that bus - that is the only day I know for sure, because that is the only day I remember, yes, coming back on September 2nd.

Q. Did you meet any people in Mexico that you can remember?

- A. I did not meet anybody who spoke English except on the bus on the way back a heavy set guy sitting across the aisle from me, he smoked cigarettes like mad, and he said something to me in Spanish and everybody kept thinking I was a Mexican because I was dressed in levis and had a little bit of a beard and my hair didn't make that much difference and I had kind of a suntan and I spoke - I have very good Spanish pronunciation - and I know a lot of words, my grammar is terrible, but I can communicate although I must sound very strange and so I was sitting there and somebody would say a few short words to me in Spanish so he said something to me in Spanish and said 'thank you', and I said, 'you are welcome' in Spanish and then he asked me some questions and I said 'slower', and he said 'oh, you speak English', and that was the only guy who spoke English, and we talked for a while, he was a business man.
- Q. What about the people in the hotel, did you remember anybody there?
- A. No, a clerk downstairs, I didn't know anybody, my Spanish was not well enough to enter into discussions, you couldn't get acquainted with people. I could order things, I could survive. And that was a big thing, well, what do you know, I could go down there and do this thing. I saw some American people on the street, looked something like Peter, Paul & Mary, that is the reason I remembered them, and I wondered if it was. And I saw a kid from Pennsylvania, some kids who had been down to Guatemala, but that was just before I left.
- Q. So you arrived back in New Orleans about September 4?
- A. I imagine, yes.
- Q. Did you, at that time, have occasion to hear about Oswald being in the City?
- A. No, I did not hear about Oswald until after the assassination and if I had known Oswald had been in the City, believe me, I would not have gotten in a squabble with this waitress in the Kennedy bit - because the more news kept coming out the more paranoid I kept getting because I thought they are going to suspect me for sure, that is why I went to the FBI and said look, I went all through this and I will clear myself ....

- Q. How many people would you say are friends of yours who knew that the book you were writing, "The Idle Warrior" was patterned after your Marine buddy, Oswald?
- A. Clint was reading "Idle Warrior" at that time ....
- Q. Clint Vogel?
- A. Yes. And shortly after the assassination he came in and sat next to me in the Bourbon House and I said "you are not mad at me?", and he said, "no, I think a lot of the remarks you have been making are in very poor taste, but I know you are that way and I am not mad at you". He said "you know I have been checking over the 'Idle Warrior' and that jumper, is he based on Oswald?" I thought I had said Oswald to Clint, it kind of surprised me that he didn't know, and I said yes, this is Oswald, the guy who went to Russia, did you read about him in the papers very recently as coming back, this sort of thing, and I said this to Jessica many times, and to Joyce Talley, who typed the manuscript, and to Sandy and Allen \_\_\_\_\_, and to anybody who wanted to read the thing I was glad to show it to them.
- Q. Nobody had mentioned anything to you about the fact that a person named Oswald had gotten a certain amount of publicity distributing leaflets and was arrested by Maison Blanche?
- A. Not a soul. I don't think people remembered this his name was Oswald, the guy in the book, nobody ever said that to me and I did not think it strange at the time.
- Q. You never heard of "The Fair Play for Cuba"? The leaflets?
- A. No, never heard of any of that stuff until after the assassination?
- Q. Do you know Carlos Bringuier?
- A. No, not to my knowledge, and I didn't recognize the picture, but I worked with a lot of Cuban waiters at the Sheraton-Charles and a friend of mine, Carlos Castillo, looked something like him too and a couple of waiters could have been mistaken for him, but I did not know him, as far as I know I did not know the guy.



Q. What did you do after you arrived back in New Orleans?

A. When, or before I left New Orleans I had gotten to a place where I had mellowed in my ideas, it was not absolutely essential for me to go out and convert everybody to my ideas. This was the spring of 1953, and I started relaxing a little and more and more people started liking me and I read a book by Alan Watts and it opened my mind a little bit, somebody recommended it to me, and I had this scene where I had this fight with this girl and I hit her, and it scared me, and the thing was, you know how the Bourbon House is, people were buying drinks, hey, congratulations, she had been to Mexico City too and she was talking about how great it was she had lived there too and so after that I started thinking maybe something is wrong with my philosophy and maybe I am applying it wrongly, and if I was not applying it correctly, then these folk singers came in and they would all get together at the Exodus Club afterwards .....

Q. This was spring of 1953?

A. Yes. Then they would leave the Exodus Club and the whole audience would go to somebody's apartment and have a party which would go on for about 3 weeks and I would go to work and go back to the party and back to work and back to the party and I got to know a lot of people then, then I went to California around April 17, which was my birthday and my parents sent me this money and said come see us, and I wanted to by then anyway, so I went out and when I got back when I started looking it was for this kind of magic I had found that spring, and it wasn't any place then I started drifting around with people, just sitting around the Bourbon House and we would talk, Jerry Jennings, Lane, Roger Loving, this is when I got to know Roger and that group. I had known Roger and that group that spring and we did not know each other well, that's when it got my jaws a little tight when I found out that you had interviewed all of these people and none of my friends, none of my close friends. There was this thing, it wasn't there anymore, these guys and folk singers, it was just a whole different thing. Come back to the port and half of the people had left, you know. I went around and looked for it and couldn't find it. I worked at the Sheraton Charles for a short while after I got back and I stopped working there and I worked for Carlos Castillo for a while and then got mixed up with John, and got this job at Arnaud's, I was hard up financially. There was a strike going on there and it was easy to get a job.

- Q. You remember the first place you lived after returning from Mexico City?
- A. Right back to my same apartment, my \$20.00 a month apartment, on Dumaine and Royal.
- Q. How long did you stay there?
- A. I stayed there until I started going with Jeanne, whenever that was. Then we moved across the hall to a bigger apartment for \$40.00 a month, a bigger apartment but in the same building and the same landlord, a big, beautiful apartment.
- Q. Were you working?
- A. No, well I was working for Carlos, but I was not working steadily. Carlos would come in and replace other waiters, Jeanne worked for Carlos a little bit too. When I got back to the Quarter and relaxed and got a very 'what the hell' attitude, and this is when I started going with Jeanne.
- Q. Were you working at The Studio in September?
- A. Yes.
- Q. In other words, as soon as you came back to New Orleans you took the apartment on Royal and went to work at the Sheraton-Charles?
- A. Yes, and Shirley Lucas was in charge of the Sheraton-Charles and Shirley and I just didn't get along. He was always coming up and nagging me about details and I can't ~~xx~~ take that kind of stuff, I have a nervous system that won't stand for it. Excitable. I just wanted to say to him get off my back, let me do it and I will get it done in my own way, don't show me how to do it because I am in a hurry, you know. I don't have time to stop and take a lesson now. And we got on each other's nerves. We didn't necessarily dislike each other, we were just that way. We just did that to each other. So I said this isn't going to work and one day I just didn't show up for work.
- Q. When did you leave Royal and Dumaine?
- A. Whenever the first rain was after we moved into that apartment

I found out that the roof leaked all over the place and I called my parents, I was not working, and they sent us a hundred dollars and I said, "Jeanne, OK, now you keep the apartment cleaned up", I thought she really liked it when we got there and then she was always making excuses for not keeping the place cleaned up, she said there was not enough furniture, that kind of thing, and I didn't think that a very good excuse and so I said, "Jeanne, you do this, you go out and get an apartment, get a furnished apartment that you like", and she went out and got a place from Spencer ....

Q. Do you know how she happened to go to Spencer?

A. No, I don't.

Q. Did she mention an ad in the paper?

A. No, she went out walking and came back and said "I have a place". I think .... well, I won't tell you what I think, but I have an opinion about it.

Q. Any particular reason for moving out of the Quarter?

A. There was some reason for moving out of the Quarter, I think I had said let's forget about the Quarter, I don't know. Maybe it was getting me, I don't know.

Q. In relation to the assassination, how long was it before the assassination that you all moved in at 824 Dauphine Street?

A. Not long before the assassination. It must have been about two months, probably less than that.

Q. At this time you were trying to get your manuscript published?

A. I had given up on it. Clint, the first day I met him, said hey I can tell by the tone of your voice, this is your baby, go home and write. It was something I was very enthused about. These idle warriors. Not only to the American image thing, these idle warriors - sending guys out and training them to be killers and then after 14 months giving them lectures about good-will ambassadors, and after duty in the Far East you were an alcoholic, or political extremist or something that was alienated because you were completely ~~xxxx~~ cynical, and the

whole thing, and you answered to it.

Q. Did you have any discussion groups at Dauphine, 724 Dauphine?

A. Not a whole lot of friends would come over, maybe Roger dropped over once or twice, maybe something like this. Not a lot of people, I don't think we had any discussion groups.

Q. Did you ever have occasion to meet Clay Shaw?

A. That's like that thing I told you about yesterday. Does the Grand Jury know about this?

A. No.

A. Want me to explain it? Well, yesterday Sciambra asked me if I had met Clay Shaw and he told me that this landlord, Spencer, had been a good friend of Shaw's, but I could not place him, and I have been thinking all along every rumor that said Clay Shaw was a homosexual, and I have been thinking of Clay Shaw as a little Slight guy and I don't think I have ever met him, and Moe said if you ever met him you would remember him as he was a great big tan guy, silver hair, very impressive, you couldn't meet him and forget him. So I walked out of the office on the way back to the French Quarter and I was thinking of something Jeanne said about somebody, that 'he certainly was a good looking man', and I thought could she have been saying that Clay Shaw was a good looking man, and the more I think of him the more I have an image of this big tan guy with silver hair and being introduced to him and I think I talked to him twice. Spencer introduced me to him, I think, they were remodeling the house and somebody had a boat and there was something about a hi-fi set and the more I think about it the more sure I am, I don't know whether its the power of suggestion, still its so hard because I don't have a vivid memory but I picture a big guy with Shaw's face and my whole feeling about this is that he was a very nice guy, an exceptionally nice guy, I thought what a nice guy he is, and I think I met him again walking through one day, and we shook hands again, you know he was standing there with Spencer, he was carrying something, he was doing something with Spencer, but I don't think the appearance thing impressed me because I just don't look for appearances, if they say something that makes me think about something or something that I am interested in, then I notice them, otherwise how are you, its nice to meet you, .....

Q. In other words, the meetings were only a passing triviality, a passing situation, nothing like sitting down for a conversation?

A. Well, he would have his door open, Spencer would, while having this remodeling done, and we would walk by and say "Hi", and he would say "come on in", Jeanne and I, and we walked in there and they showed us what they were doing, and they had some other guys there too, that was his roommate or something, and I figured these guys were homosexual and they were all nice people, that is the thing that I remember, and I remember that I felt so bad when I was leaving and I only had to spend that money where I could be looking for a job rather than spend it in New Orleans, when I decided I wanted to get out of the French Quarter. Another thing, you asked me about this business did I have a fight with Jeanne with the joining of a Right Wing or something, OK, the Kennedy assassination happened and I realized how alienated I was from the people around me and I became the most hated person in the Quarter. The Bourbon House sense of humor is very grim, Roger Loving would be sitting there drawing cartoons of Vietnamese bunks soaked in gasoline and 'anybody got a match?', you know - they think they are very funny - its just that it is not taken seriously, and I went into the Bourbon House with the same attitude about this and so I - so that made an evil thing out of it too -

Q. You talking about the night of the assassination?

A. Yes. I could not drop it then, I went . . . oh, this Right Wing organization, what I had said to Jeanne was, I said, "I am going to be leaving town and I want to be with my kind of people, I am going to Alexandria and get a job there because Bob Arnold is there and he told me I could stay with him.

Q. You are talking about Alexandria, Virginia?

A. Yes. And I said I am going to get a job there for a while and stay with him and then I am going to New York and try to get a job with NBI or something and work for the Ayn Rand people because I went back into the shock of this thing,

you know Oswald getting killed and all and I suddenly became an outcast in the French Quarter, and all this business, so maybe I was right in the first place and I would go back to my philosophy again, and so I expressed this thing about going up to New York and be with my kind of people.

Q. Before we get away from the assassination, do you ever remember going to Clay Shaw's apartment?

A. I would say no I am sure that I never went in Clay Shaw's apartment, you know I wasn't sure that I had met Clay Shaw.

Q. Were you aware that he lived at 1313 Dauphine Street?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever have occasion to meet Jeff Bitterson?

A. Maybe.

Q. Maybe over at Spencer's apartment?

A. There was that roommate, whoever he was, that is all. I did not remember the thing about Spencer's mother writing but after you said that I was thinking about he did say his mother was a writer and he wanted her to see the manuscript.

Q. Tell us what you were doing in New Orleans the day of the assassination?

A. Yes, I was waiting tables at Arnaud's.

Q. What time did you get off from work?

A. Around midnight, sometime. We might have got off early because the assassination killed business entirely.

Q. When were you first contacted by the FBI? Or the Secret Service?

A. I was waiting tables and we were waiting on the last people at midnight, Saturday night, 36 hours after the assassination,

and the head waiter walked up to me and he said, "Kerry, there is someone here to see you", and I saw these nice distinguished people, and I said oh, oh, this is it, and they showed me a secret service badge and so we went into this room and sat down in one of Arnaud's side rooms there and we talked, and they were very nice and they asked me if I ever heard the name Alex James Heidel, they asked me all kinds of questions about Oswald, and I think they asked me, maybe three times, they said, 'are you sure you don't own a gun, but they didn't ask me like, you know, suspiciously.

Q. Did they ask you anything about the CIA?

A. Not that I can recall. They just seemed to ask me what kind of guy was Oswald, this sort of thing .....

Q. How long did they talk to you?

A. I don't know, I think it was probably a half hour. They said one thing toward the end, after we got through with the questions and got into a casual conversation, they said "we feel that he is trying to cover up for somebody", and I said that guy couldn't keep his shoes shined ... and they said well, maybe he didn't do it, but why won't he talk, maybe he is trying to cover up for this Heidel, or I got that impression anyway. Then when I got down to the Bourbon House and mentioned it to somebody they said, oh, Heidel is an alias, for Oswald ... then I dismissed the whole thing.

Q. Where did you go after you left that night?

A. I went to the Bourbon House, I think.

Q. Did they give you any indication as to why after 36 hours after the assassination they were saying Oswald may not have done it when there were reports that he was the lone assassin?

A. It seemed to be a personal opinion.

Q. When were you next contacted?

A. Saturday night. OK, I was next contacted the day that Oswald was killed, because these guys had not as yet <sup>learned</sup> that Oswald had been killed, they first heard it from me, I told them somebody told me.

They didn't ask me any questions about Oswald, they asked me about my trip to Mexico, they wanted to know about this stuff, and by then I had begun to see that this travel pattern was emerging, and they wanted to know all this stuff. One guy sat and looked at me while the other guy questioned me. This time it was a little sharper.

Q. Did you have any indication how your name came up so fast?

A. I know now. Jenner told me, he said the FBI had received a report from an artist in Pirate's Alley named Carnation Roskey that a girl named Jeanne Thornley, who was Jeanne Hartley, the girl I was going with, and she had said to Tony Shimbrosky that I said I was next in line to shoot Kennedy if Oswald didn't do it, and that I had a shotgun for that purpose and she said I owned the shotgun. Fortunately, I only did not own a shotgun I think a shotgun is a poor assassination weapon.

Q. Did you actually say that?

A. What?

Q. What Jeanne said you did.

A. No, I didn't. What I said was - I said, you know, look, you and I won't get along, we have too different ideas because I was still mad at all these people around me getting mad at me and I had trapped myself into this and I was not going to get off it, and I said, look, the only difference between Oswald and me is he happened to be there with the gun at the right time and had the guts to do it and I said I don't want to be with you because you are too different from me and it won't work, she elaborated a little, and I found out afterwards she had said all kinds of things, not only about the assassination but all kinds of other things, she was just a psychopathic liar.

Q. What were some of the lies she told?

A. She said in some letters that I found laying around the apartment and she wrote these letters home saying we had gotten married, we had pretended to be married because her father lived in New Orleans and she didn't want to upset him, I didn't want to get married to somebody I didn't even know, and we were going together, so we finally compromised by going across the river and coming back and saying we had been married and then what I didn't count on people started giving us wedding presents and giving us things and then she wrote this letter where she said



I found the letter where she said that I was the Manager of a photographic firm, and when I was married I was unemployed, and that we lived in a southern mansion, and on and on like this, we were living in that place above the Lil General, and centuries ago that was a southern mansion, a complete departure from reality, and one of the things I really liked her when I said did you read a book, she said yes, it was fantastic, the most well read woman in the world, she had read everything I had read, even some of the things I hadn't read, and yet that was her stock reply when I asked her if she had read something, she said yes.

- Q. What was some of the lies she said concerning you and President Kennedy?
- A. That was the only one I knew of, and I found out about that from Jenna, he was very liberal about telling me anything I wanted to know. There was the time he brought down my FBI file and took this half sheet out of it and he read it to me and then an assistant came in and he went out of the room and he came back and said I am going to the Supreme Court parking lot and pick up Mrs. Jenner and I will be back in about 15 or 30 minutes, and I said OK, and I am sitting there at this table correcting my transcript and I look over and there is my FBI file sitting there and a half page on top of it, and I reach over and pick up the half page and I read it, and it says the same thing he said it did that Tony Shambrosky says he does not know Thornley very well but he caused trouble around the Bourbon House, I said yea, I'll cause him a lot of trouble around the Bourbon House. And I went back to correcting my transcript.
- Q. Did they have anything in the file about the Right Wing organization?
- A. I did not go through the file, I just picked up the half sheet thing and looked at it. I thought about it, I thought should I reach over and look at it and some guy told me later that was an old FBI trick, I was sitting right next to a window and there was a house next door and somebody could have been sitting there looking in.
- Q. You started to say something about the Right Wing thing we

talked about yesterday?

- A. That's when I said that, I had wanted to go to New York I had a penchant about being around people, it took me the longest time to find that I was not going to find my kind of people, instead of just accepting people as they are I wanted everybody agreeing with me totally on everything. And when I stopped hitting them over the head I got in all of this trouble, so I thought well I had better go back to that thing, then I thought well I will just go to New York and go be with my kind of people.
- Q. How many days was it after the assassination that you went to the Washington area?
- A. I think I left on December 13.
- Q. Where did you go?
- A. I went directly to Alexandria and called Mack, he was in school that day teaching ...
- Q. Who is Mack?
- A. Bob McDonald, he is the friend who invited me there and I had a standing invitation there, and just received a letter from him about the time all this broke .....
- Q. Where did you know him from?
- A. I met him at Victory Blvd. School in California in the third grade. We had known each other since then, he was a bright kid and I was a misfit, I was not bright, I did not get bright until I got older, and got interested in things.
- Q. When did he invite you to come to Alexandria?
- A. I had gotten the letter , not too long, maybe it was just after the assassination, saying maybe oh, that Oswald thing - maybe that occasioned the letter, we had kind of a deal, he had been out to California that summer and stopped by to visit us, he might have stayed overnight with us once, but his grandmother was out there, but whenever I came to Alexandria I was welcome to stay at his house. I had stayed there when I went to the

Technique of Instruction contest in 1959 when I was on TAV for the States in Washington, I stayed in Washington and he stayed with me.

Q. Where does he live?

A. He now lives in ... I have his address at home, I don't know it ... he lived in Washington, D. C.

Q. Where did he live then?

A. In Alexandria.

Q. Where?

A. It was a brick home, I don't remember the name of the street. I can tell you where he was working, it was the Alexandria Technical Institute, or something, it was a school this guy was starting in an empty supermarket.

Q. Now, did you come back on December 13 or did you stay in that area?

A. I left New Orleans on December 13.

Q. Did you stay up in the Alexandria area?

A. Yes.

Q. You lived in Alexandria?

A. Yes.

Q. For how long?

A. Yes - I left Alexandria and I ended up in Sherlington, which is right between Arlington and Shirley Duke, the Sherlington House, that's where I got my job as doorman, and I lived there and got an apartment in the building and lived there.

Q. You also lived in Arlington, Virginia?

A. Well no, it was Sherlington, Sherlington is right next to Arlington, the post office is Arlington and the town is called Sherlington, its right above a little parking super-market area, a few houses and that is it.

Q. When did you get the job?

A. Not too long after I got there. I first tried to get a job as a waiter, then I read an ad and went and applied for it and they liked me and I liked them, and I did well at the job.

Q. What was the name of the apartment house?

A. Sherlington.

Q. How long did you work there?

A. The whole time I was there, and I'll figure out exactly when I left.

Q. Roughly how long?

A. About a year, not quite a year. It was late summer of 1964 and I had won the scholarship to the Freedom School and decided to go there by way of New Orleans and when I came through I went to the French Quarter for a week. Then I went out to the Freedom School where I finally met Robert La Favre, a right winger who is so far to the right he is a total pacifist .....

Q. Where is the Freedom School?

A. Out in Colorado .. Boulder, no, Colorado Springs, its out of town actually. It is now called Rampart College and Freedom School is part of it, really an extension. Then it was called just the Freedom School.

Q. Did the College have a special orientation of any kind?

A. Well, it has this Fabian orientation, we call it - you know its within the so-called Libertarian Movement, that I do a lot of writing for because of my background. There is Ayn Rand and her followers who have their little set of beliefs, and there is Robert LaFavre is probably second biggest, Ayn Rand is first because of the books she has written, and LaFavre's ideology differs from Ayn Rand in

that LaFavre doesn't believe in sanctioning the lesser of two evils by even voting, he says if you vote for the lesser of two evils you are still voting for evil, he personally believes that if someone attacks you with a pitchfork and he is holding a gun he shouldn't shoot you and he shouldn't even kick the pitchfork out of his hand because that is violating the property rights.

Q. How long did you work in the Sherlington Apartments?

A. I worked until late in the summer of 1964 ....

Q. And you started in December?

A. I started in December, probably late December or early January and I worked January, February, March, April, May, June, July and I think it was September, the first two weeks of September that I took a month's leave of absence and I came down and spent a week in the Quarter to see old friends, and then I went up there for two weeks.

Q. When did you testify before the Warren Commission?

A. I testified ... there is one other thing we might get in on as well, as I went back<sup>to</sup> Arlington, while I was at the Freedom School I was invited by this news letter that I was writing articles for to come out there and edit the thing so I was considering it and when I went from the Freedom School I went by way of Chicago and I went by and saw this publisher who had put out some things I had admired, he seemed to be the same sort of Maverick I was, and he was putting out some magazines and stuff containing a lot of random propaganda, and I thought it real good, and it was handled real well and everything, and I had been corresponding with his secretary so I stopped in to see them and she took me into his office and he found out I knew Oswald and he is the guy who published my book. Now I either saw him on my way back to California or on my way back to Arlington, I don't know which, I went back to the Sherlington House and the people who had been working there, one girl who had been working there, Assistant Manager, was becoming Manager of her own place, her own apartment building, and I was to quit and go to work for her, and I was considering this offer and I gave them my notice and then I came out to California and started and just as I got out to California Paul Langmar wrote me and

I had told him what my theory was and I said if Oswald did commit the assassination this was what was in his mind when he did it. By then I had testified before the Warren Commission, while I was working at Sherlington House. I told him this is how I figured it had been done, like peeling lawyers off an onion ....

Q. What month did you quit working at Sherlington House?

A. As I say, sometime in the late summer, I think it was August or September when I left to go to Freedom School, when I came back I stayed there for about two weeks, this was just about a month afterward I left.

Q. How long would you say it was after you testified before the Warren Commission?

A. I testified in the spring ~~in the spring~~ and this was in the fall, now the exact day and month I don't know.

Q. Let's go back to what you can recall when Oswald was speaking Russian with somebody in the fanks in the spring of 1959 at El Toro, what do you remember about that?

A. The vivid thing I remember is the laughter, I remember the two guys talking in a foreign language, Oswald spoke Russian, I heard he spoke Russian, and all I could remember at the time of the assassination about this was that a guy with a name like Heidel, some name like that that had an 'H', and this guy was speaking Russian with Oswald, or what I assumed to be Russian, and they laughed, this happened a number of times, but there was the laughter that impressed me and I thought well, they knew Russian, they can tell jokes in it, some knowledge of the language when they can tell jokes in it, and it seemed like they were speaking it just to show off, both of them, ....

Q. Who was that he was talking to?

A. Well, I don't know who it was, but when Jenner told me it was Hyndel I thought that must be he because the name sounded like Heidel, I thought it was the same name at first.

Q. What is your recollection independently as to who it was?

A. Well, I don't have any independent answer, because that's like

saying what's the answer if you don't know the answer. I just don't know.

Q. No, I am getting to your statement in the affidavit here, here is your sentence: "I knew ever since the time of my conversation with Mr. Jenner that the name of the second party in the Russian speaking incident was John Hyndel."

A. Right, because he told me, it rang a bell. I knew it was a name that sounded like Heindel, it was a logical thing as I reconstructed it because he said it was Heidel, and I said 'Oh', and he said 'no, it was really Hyndel'. He told me he had been remembering Hyndel and I had no reason not to believe that it was true for I knew it was a name that sounded like that.

Q. Your affidavit states that when Jenner said his name was really Heindel you stated that "I realized that this was the name that I had been searching my memory for in connection with the man who spoke Russian with Oswald in the barracks at muster".

A. I realized it because Heidel reminded me of that name, and Jenner was confirming it, I realized it.

Q. Is this correct, your statement: "It was Mr. Jenner's mentioning of that name at lunch that day that caused me to immediately recollect that this was the name I had been groping for and could not remember".

A. Yes, that was my statement. But that statement is not correct.

Q. Oh, it isn't?

A. No, I did not mean for it to be incorrect, but I worked it out logically.

Q. What about this statement: "I do not remember the exact words, but I am sure I made it clear to Mr. Jenner that John Hyndel was the man I had reference to in my previous testimony and whose name I could not recall while under oath, I think I said to Mr. Jenner 'oh, Hyndel, that is the name'".

A. Of course, because it sounded like Heidel, and Heidel reminded

me of this incident. That kind of recollection, I wasn't trying to lie, it was just recollection and when I read it it didn't seem like it was wrong.

Q. What is your recollection now as to the man who was speaking Russian with Oswald?

A. I still think it was Hyndel, otherwise why would the name Heidel have brought the Russian speaking incident to mind?

Q. I understand the reasoning.

A. Well, that is my recollection, maybe there was another man in the outfit with a name like Heidel too, and maybe it could be that, but aside from that I .....

Q. A John Rene Heindel? Also Hyndel, was that the man?

A. The John could be, but the middle name Rene didn't mean anything to me because we didn't go by, you know ....

Q. Have you ever seen John Rene Heindel? Hyndel?

A. I saw him in the outfit apparently. I recall him as a tall blond guy, I don't know, I didn't feel that I could identify him. And he said well we will leave that out.

Q. Could you now recall ever seeing John Rene Heindel?

A. I do not recall how he looked except a vague impression of a tall blond guy.

Q. Can you recall John Rene Heindel being in your unit?

A. I recall him being in my Marine Unit on the basis of somebody with a name like that, I heard that name when I was in the Unit and I associate that name with the Russian incident.

Q. Was that at El Toro or Atsugi?

A. El Toro.

Q. Do you recall him at Atsugi?

A. No, not at all. I think he was mustered out.



- Q. When you came back in 1963 from Mexico, in September, you went back to work at the Sheraton Charles, is that right?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You worked there until September 20, 1963, according to their records. Is that correct?
- A. That would seem entirely correct.
- Q. Then where was your next job?
- A. My next steady job was at Arnaud's. In the meantime I was working as well as I recollect at Castillo's, off and on.
- Q. Your job at Arnaud's began on November 14, 1963, does that sound correct?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Between September<sup>20,</sup> 1963 and November<sup>14</sup> 1963 you did not have a steady job during that period?
- A. Right. I did have \$75.00 that Vic kicked back and I was working at Castillo's.
- Q. How regularly did you work at Castillo's?
- A. Sometimes 3 or 4 days in a row. It was just for tips, and I also got meals there.
- Q. During that 7-week period your only employment was at Castillo's?
- A. Yes. Off and on. It was a hard period, we were struggling, there were days when I felt like laying in bed and staring at the walls - I just couldn't get a job, you know ....
- Q. You mentioned earlier that in 1961 you had a post office box here? How long did you keep that post office box?
- A. I kept it about a year, I think, I am not sure. I think that after the Post Office moved, they moved from Lafayette Square, I don't remember going to the other building.

Is there any particular reason why you took a post office box in Lafayette Square?

A. I was across the street from Fred's Inn, where I was living, and it was right down the street from Camp street.

Q. Where did you live on Camp Street?

A. I think it was the 900 block, the landlord was Francis Landry. It was right near Lee's Circle.

Q. Did you ever have occasion to go in the Newman Building where Guy Banister had an office?

A. No, I don't know, the name Guy Banister rang a bell, I was in Tampa on TV and they went through this list with all the names that were in the Playboy interview, which I hadn't read yet, and the name Guy Banister rang a bell, and yesterday when I was in the office I was shown a picture and I recognized it and it turned out to be Guy Banister, I did not look at it and say 'Guy Banister', but I looked at it and I said 'I know that guy', and I 'know that name'. He was very familiar looking, you know, somebody like in the Bourbon House, somebody I talked to.  
from

Q. His office was 531 Lafayette Street, across the Post Office, does that refresh your recollection?

A. I think I might have seen it, I might have walked by it, you know, Guy Banister written there, and I might have walked by on my way to Walgreen's, when I first got to New Orleans.

Q. His office was behind the Mancuso Restaurant behind Lafayette and Camp.

A. This does not ring a bell. Which side is Lafayette on? The side of the Unemployment Office?

Q. Canal. Did you ever use that unemployment office up there?

A. Where was it?

A. You just asked.

A. Oh, you mean the State Unemployment Office. Yes, I used that, it was right after I got to New Orleans, and I got tired of starving and I decided to go in there.

Q. What years did you use that?

A. Right after I got to New Orleans in 1961.

Q. How about 1962?

A. I might have gone in there looking for a job.

Q. About 1963?

A. Might have.

Q. You cannot remember independently going in there in 1963?

A. No, I can't remember unless I was just going around to all the places where I might get a job.

Q. Can you remember not going there in 1963?

A. No, as I say I might have gone in looking for a job.

Q. The reason I say this is that Oswald went there very systematically. Have you ever been in Jones Printing Co? On Girod Street?

A. No. The first thing I did when I got in New Orleans I wanted to know everything about writing, from the time you wrote the stuff on the paper until the book was published and I went to this .. I called all these printers up and said I would like to get a job as an apprentice if I could and I am willing to work hard but I have a beard, and nothing ever came of it.

Q. Did that include the Jones Printing Co?

A. It might have, I don't remember. There was one guy I talked to and he was almost interested in hiring me, but I don't know the name of the Company, maybe if you were to mention it it would ring a bell.

Q. Have you ever been to the Mexican Counsel in the Whitney Building?

A. No, there was some kind of Mexican Counsel down on the sidewalk with a display window, go to Mexico, that kind of thing, I waited for a bus there a couple of times ....

Q. Where was that?

A. It might have been the Whitney Bank Building.

JUROR:

That was the St. Charles Hotel.

Q. Have you ever been in the International Trade Mart?

A. No, I was in that building on the corner of Camp and Common, the International something .....

Q. International House.

A. The International Trade Mart was on Camp and Common, I have been in there, yes. I was in there with Clint once on the 2nd floor, and Clint was going to talk to a friend of his. And I asked him who he was going to see and he said Jeff Core, I said I hoped it wasn't Clay Shaw.

Q. Jess Core is a close friend of Clay Shaw. What was Clint going to see Core about?

A. I don't know, he was going to see him and I happened to be with him. And I looked at these windows and saw these displays from Guatemala, some art work or something, and then we went back out. I think there was somebody else with him, but I don't remember. I didn't recollect that it was Jess Core, Clint has told me that.

Q. Do you remember when that was?

A. No. One time when I was in New Orleans I was inside that building because that was one of the things that had been in the news = and was I ever in that building, you know ... Clint said it wasn't the International Trade Mart, he said it was a different place, said it was called the International House. And I said who are we in there to see and he said an old friend of mine, Jess Core. And he has always told me that he was a good friend of Clay Shaw's.

Q. Who said that?

A. Clint told me that.

Q. Clint Bolton?

A. Yes.

- Q. You left the Sheraton Charles the second time on September 20, 1963. Now going back, can you remember about a week afterward where you were?
- A. I have been going through this whole September thing so much in my mind ....
- Q. Have you reached some result as to this last week in September?
- A. No, the only thing referring to this time period, ever since the assassination Barbara Reed said mark my words, when the truth of the assassination comes out, and this was within a week after Oswald was killed, and it was in her house one night, and she said when the truth of the assassination comes out it will be a New Orleans based conspiracy, it will have right wing elements involved and it will have something to do with Latin elements.
- Q. What do you recall thinking about this last week in September?
- A. Let me tell you first how I got on to thinking about it to begin with. She said she had seen me sitting with Oswald in my little corner of the Bourbon House, where I sat whenever it was empty, and she had said to me a couple of times 'you have a nice voice', or something like that, I did not know her too well but I had seen her around and I had been introduced to her casually, we weren't friends or anything. She was sitting up at the bar and I was sitting down here and somebody was on my right and she said I am sure you were sitting there with Oswald, I am positive it was Oswald, because I never forget a face, I have been a casting director and I never forget a face, he was very very neat and he was sitting there and talking to you and I made that comment to you about your voice - and I remember the incident, I was sitting there one day, I was talking to somebody and Barbara did made a comment about my voice, and the reason I think it was not is because first of all that night she was talking to me and we decided after talking about two hours, that she was so sure of herself, and all of this travel pattern had emerged and I am saying Barbara is suggesting, she is saying, well maybe you didn't recognize him, he came walking in and of course there is always the other consideration that I was revising the book at that time and he could have come walking in, and she convinced me that this is what probably happened, he came walking in and sat next to me and we were talking to her and she made this comment on my voice and she went back to her conversation and I went back to mine ....

Q. Did she see you with Oswald?

A. I don't think she did because the next day I started asking people ....

Q. You don't think so?

A. I don't know whether it was Oswald, I can't remember who was sitting there with me, I don't think it was Oswald for two reasons, the first thing is if I could remember who it was then I could say definitely, in view of the fact that .....

Q. I understand those facts, but in view of the fact that you were writing a novel about him, I should think you would recognize him.

A. Yes, this was Barbara's theory.

Q. Was her theory right?

A. I don't know. First of all, the next day I started saying to people Barbara is sure she saw me with Oswald in the Bourbon House. That is the first thing. I kept asking people.

Q. Did you ask them if they saw you at the Bourbon House with Oswald?

A. No, I did not ask them, how would they know. Barbara was there. I said Barbara is sure she saw me at the Bourbon House with Oswald, I don't know whether it is true or not but she is sure she saw me there and she has convinced me that she saw me. And everybody said, "Oh, Barbara Reed gets involved with everything that happens".

Q. Is it possible that you were with Oswald at the Bourbon House?

A. I don't think it possible. For here is the other reason. I remembered this thing that happened after she turned away and after she went back to conversing with this person at the bar and I felt obligated to explain to this person sitting with me that is Barbara Reed, she is a character around here, to somebody who did not know Barbara she is a witch or something like this, and I felt that there was a barrier to my explaining this to this person and this could only have been one of the Cuban waiters at the Sheraton-Charles, and the only barrier would have been a language barrier, why did I feel that this was a barrier, and on the basis of that - that is all I know.

On the basis of that I am sure I was not with Oswald, but Barbara is sure I was.

Q. All right, have you finished giving me the basis for getting to what you were doing the last week in September?

A. That is the only thing I don't know what I was doing.

Q. With all the thought you have given to it you don't know what you were doing in the last week of September, 1963?

A. Look, first of all, I was not working.....

Q. This is the week after you quit the Sheraton Charles. You quit on the 20th and it is rather distinct in your mind because you did not care for this man.

A. Oh yes, the week after I quit the Sheraton Charles. I was in the Dumaine Street apartment, Lane and Millie Fletcher were with me .....

Q. What number on Dumaine?

A. Above the Lil General, I don't remember the number. And it was the \$20.00 a month apartment I had, and I had decided that I was going to write and I would do odd jobs to keep myself alive and I would write, and Lane and I have never gotten along because we have such different ideas about all sorts of things, and right after I quit working at the Sheraton Charles I went walking with them, and we went over to the Caplinger house, and Lane made some linen covers for pillows ... this happened that week I am certain after I quit the Sheraton Charles .....

A. What were you doing that week, were you working any place?

A. No, I don't think I was working, unless I was working spottily one or two days at Castillo's, I think I just drifted for a while until I got that thing at Castillo's, I was working for tips, and I was fed there ....

Q. How many days a week was that?

A. It varied. Sometimes it was for 3 or 4 days in a row, it depended on his other waiters and when they showed up ...

- Q. Can you remember if you went to work for Castillo that first week between the 20th and 27th?
- A. I doubt it because as I say I think I just drifted for a while.
- Q. During that time did you have occasion to drift out of New Orleans at all?
- A. I don't think so. The only time I ever recall going out of New Orleans at all was working for, or trying to work for encyclopedias and being taken across the lake, and then over to Algiers, you know ....
- Q. Where across the lake?
- A. Over the bridge and taken to some suburb and knock on doors and then they picking us up and taking us back. I don't know, I am trying to figure out where this was, but I am pretty sure it was not during that time period, to the best of my recollection it was not.
- Q. Well perhaps we can make it more specific. Between September 20 and November 14, 1963, did you, when you went to work for Arnaud's, did you have occasion to leave the State of Louisiana?
- A. No, certainly not, I would have remembered that I know.
- Q. Now perhaps since that is so clear in your mind we can go to the next question. Between September 20 and November 14, 1963 did you leave the City of New Orleans for more than a few hours?
- A. I don't think I left the City of New Orleans at all, the only time I remember was to go across Lake Pontchartrain, oh, there is another thing I did, I passed out handbills on Magazine Street where you had to be at a certain place at a certain time and they put you in a truck and took you across the River, and I went over there and passed out handbills sometime during that October period, September-October period when I was working at .. at ... and one other thing, they pay you something like, I think you work two days and they pay you something like \$14.00, they take you over there, you work two days in a row, I think one of them is a Thursday, they are always bums and you got down there and if you look sharp ....



you might get picked and they got you over there and you passed out bills..... and .....

Q. Were you about to mention another job?

A. What I was about to mention, another thing I remember was another person I was spending a lot of time with during September, I was going up to Loy's apartment and talking to - now I don't know if it was early September or not - but I was spending a lot of time in Loy's apartment on Decatur Street, sitting there and talking to Buck Mashburn who was going with Loy at the time, also named Tom Mashburn, he was a person who had a whole lot of knowledge and had a whole lot to say and I would .....

Q. What kind of business was he in?

A. No business, he was a real strange guy, he made his living passing out these leaflets and he had subsisted, he did not do anything more, he would get on things like medicine and go ~~go~~ get all these books and articles on medicine and he would learn all about medicine, and then he would get on something else like this and learn all about it, he was fantastically efficient, and he said you don't have to work except a couple of days a week just go out and I don't even call that working, and he would just sit around Loy's all day. I went out with him one day in handing out handbills, we both had the same route, he was on one side of the street and I was on the other, I was just trotting along and he was away ahead of me. He was very sharp and very coordinated. And sometime during that September-October period I was up there doing that, they paid you and they had you fill out Social Security forms, and such stuff.

Q. Can you recall whether or not you were ever in Guy Banister's office on Lafayette Street?

A. I can't recall, but I know I saw him some place, but I don't remember where.

Q. Have you ever seen Jack Martin?

A. No. Doesn't ring a bell.

Q. How about Carlos Quiroga?

A. No.

Q. Guy Johnson?

A. No.

Q. What was your connection with Victor Latham?

A. Very close friend of mine, my closest friend, he knew me best, him and Loy.

Q. Where did you meet him?

A. I met him when he was bartender at Ruffino's, not too long after I got down to New Orleans, and I found this other girl, and her name was Carol Eden, and she was a grand person, and she was always at Ruffino's, and we got to talking one night and I said where can I get in touch with you and she said I am always at Ruffino's, and there was this bartender there and I said do you know Carol, then we became acquainted and he became a soda jerk at Pierre Antoine's, I was living up on St. Louis at Mrs. George's place and he was a soda jerk there and I would go sit at the counter and he got me my typist for "The Idle Warrior".

Q. Have you ever met Gordon Novel?

A. No, not that I know of.

Q. Gordon was at the University of Southern California in 1957.

A. I graduated from High School in 1957.

Q. When did you go to the University of Southern California?

A. I went in 1958.

Q. You did not go there in 1957?

A. No, because I graduated from High School in June, class of 1957.

Q. What did you do that fall?

A. Joined the Marine Corps.

Q. What did you do in the fall of 1957?

A. The fall of '57, OK, oh, yes I graduated in June of '57 and enrolled in USC in the fall of '57

Q. Then you were at USC in '57 and not '58?

A. '57 and '58.

Q. That was the same year Gordon Novel was there. Did you ever meet him while you were out there?

A. No.

Q. Do you remember any of the on-campus recruiting activities which Central Intelligence Agency was conducting out there in '57 at the California schools?

A. No. I don't think I knew about the Central Intelligence Agency then.

Q. Did you ever meet a man named Frank Bartes?

A. It doesn't ring a bell with me.

Q. Let me ask a few questions and I think I can save some of your time. How about Thomas Beckham?

A. No.

Q. Manuel Gil?

A. No.

Q. Louis Rabel?

A. No.

Q. Sergio Arcacha Smith?

A. No.

Q. Isaac Casta Diego?

A. No.

Q. How about David Ferrie? Did you ever meet David Ferrie?

A. No.

Q. Nestor Martes Diaz?

A. No.

Q. Where did you learn Spanish?

A. I started taking Spanish in High School and I took it at USC.

Q. How much Russian did you learn at Atsugi?

A. Not very much, I learned (speaks few Russian words)....  
I only went to two classes and lost interest or came back to the States.

Q. You cannot recall ever having been to Mancuso's Cafe across from the Post Office?

A. I might have been while living on Camp Street in 1961. There is a good chance that I might have gone in there to eat.

Q. You remember that number on Camp Street?

A. I think it is the 900 block, it is on the River side across from the Confederate Museum, by Lee's Circle there, the YMCA is on the other side, and the landlord's name was Francis Landry, and he had a brother who was a policeman and he had just shot a negro.

Q. Have you ever been to the Katz & Jammer Bar on Lafayette and Camp?

A. No.

Q. Do you ever remember meeting with Ricardo Davis?

A. No.

Q. Jeff Bidderson?

A. No.

Q. You never met Jeff Bidderson?

A. No. I was asked that before, and I still don't remember.

Q. Bill Young?

A. No. Bill Young was the manager of the building 1824 Dauphine, you don't remember him?

Q. He might be the other guy, the roommate of Spencer.

Q. How about Virginia Johnson?

A. Don't recall.

Q. She was the maid at 1824 Dauphine.

A. They didn't have a maid for us. I didn't know there was a maid there.

Q. She was the maid for Spencer and also for Clay Shaw.

Q. How about Layten Martens?

A. No.

Q. Did you meet Dr. Kety of Covington?

A. No.

Q. How about Dr. Martin Palmer?

A. The only doctor - I am trying to figure out his name - somebody who criticized the "Idle Warrior", and he taught at Tulane or LSU NO, it was not Dr. Martin Palmer.

Q. Was he a professor?

A. He was a professor of literature or something and he didn't like people turning out literature - he didn't like "The Idle Warrior" because he said I was trying to propagandize, said he didn't like people to turn out literature with their half baked political ideas.

Q. What was his name?

- A. I don't know his name, I think it was Martin McAuliffe. Dr. Martin McAuliffe. It sounded like that.
- Q. Have you ever heard of Friends of Democratic Cuba?
- A. No.
- Q. Would it refresh your memory if I told you that Martin McAuliffe was President of Friends of Democratic Cuba?
- A. No, not at all.
- Q. He was an incorporator with Guy Banister.
- A. I got the idea that McAuliffe was some kind of left winger because he objected so strongly to the "Idle Warrior" and these half baked political ideas, he said.
- Q. How did you meet him?
- A. Joyce Talley, who was the typist for the "Idle Warrior", he was her professor and she kept telling how great this book was and he had to read this book, and so he came by and he read it and he wanted to get some of it on a TV program, one chapter he wanted me to read on TV, it was called "One Windy Night", the name of the chapter, and it turned out that he liked that chapter and he read some of the other chapters but he said we had better stick to this chapter ....
- Q. How many times did you see him?
- A. I saw him a lot of times, ten or twelve times, and we argued about this and then one day about a year or six months later I saw him again across the way and he said Hi, and I said that is Martin McAuliffe and he didn't like my book, and he overheard that and he looked shocked ....
- Q. During the times you saw McAuliffe you were not aware that he was President of Friends of Democratic Cuba?
- A. Was that organization a left or right wing?
- A. It was a CIA front used to purchase trucks and other things immediately before the Bay of Pigs.

A. My impression of Martin McAuliffe was that he was a liberal of some kind and I got this impression very strongly. I was not conservative in the traditional sense, I was not a racist, or anything of that sort ....

Q. Did you know any of his friends like Joseph Moore?

A. The only friend of his that I knew was Philip Boatwright, who was really a great guy, afterwards, he was always thinking Martin knew about poetry and literature and all of this, and I would say 'that guy', I couldn't even understand what he thought literature was for ....

Q. Did you know McAuliffe was Public Relations Manager for Sergio Arcacha?

A. No.

Q. He was seen in the company of Sergio Arcacha on several occasions and Friends of Democratic Cuba was developed out of Sergio Arcacha's organization.

Q. How about Bill Dalzell, did you ever know him?

A. No.

Q. How about Charles White?

A. No.

Q. Ever hear of Don Doody?

A. No.

Q. You never encountered him in Mexico in 1963?

A. The only people I met in Mexico were the people I mentioned from Guatemala.

Q. How about Martin Abelow?

A. No.

Q. Who did you meet in Mexico from Guatemala?

A. A bunch of kids in a bus station, they had packs on their

backs and went to Guatemala.

Q. Where were they from?

A. Pennsylvania. They were saying oh, boy, will we be glad to get back, what a hole that was .... and I said where you from and they said Pennsylvania, that was what transpired between us.

Q. Did you ever meet Kent Courtney?

A. I worked for him through some temporary employment agency for two days in 1961. I stuffed envelopes out there and this is when I decided - you know I read this Ayn Rand thing and I said this is what .....

Q. What street was this on?

A. I don't know, it was out in the Garden District.

Q. Pelican Printing Company?

A. I don't know about that.

Q. Courtney's company publishes the Independent American.

A. That was what we were stuffing when I got out there and that is what I started talking about when I got out there and afterwards I talked to so many people about working for Kent Courtney, that is when I realized I was not conservative.

Q. Now Mr. Courtney is very close to Bringuier, Carlos Bringuier. Did you meet him?

A. Not that I know of.

Q. Have you ever been in Mr. Bringuier's Little Shop on Chartres Street?

A. No, I have never been in there.

Q. Are you aware that Oswald also applied for a job at Courtney's?

A. Moe told me yesterday that he worked there through A-1 Employment Agency.



Q. Have you ever met Louis Davis?

A. No.

Q. How about Dr. Gustave von Herr?

A. No.

Q. Carroll de Montfort?

A. No.

Q. Tommy Baumer?

A. No.

Q. Ernesto Rodriguez?

A. No.

Q. Ross Buckley?

A. No.

Q. Rev. Edward Hovis?

A. No.... something sounds familiar, but no Reverend.

Q. Ever meet an Edward Hovis?

A. I don't think so.... Ho-something ....I don't think it was Hovis.

Q. Did you ever see Jesse Core on any other occasion?

A. I never saw him that time, Clint went into the office and I was standing out in the hall looking at these relics from Guatemala.

Q. Ever hear of John Alice? In the International Trade Mart?

A. No.

Q. How about a man named John C. Martin?

A. No.

Q. Alvin Beauboef?

A. No.

Q. Melvin Coffee?

A. I heard of somebody named Coffee because I thought what a strange name.

Q. Where did you hear it?

A. I don't know where I heard of it, somewhere when I was in New Orleans, I can't recall the incident, I just recall the name Coffee.

Q. Can you recall who mentioned it?

A. No, I just recall the name Coffee and thinking it such a strange name.

Q. You wouldn't recall having met him?

A. No.

Q. How about Margaret Tate?

A. Is she a real estate agent?

Q/ Yes.

A. Yes, I know her.

Q. Where did you meet her?

A. I looked for apartments through her.

Q. On how many occasions would you say you met her?

A. I would say twice. It might have been Barracks Street where I lived .....

Q. 717 Barracks Street?

A. Yes. It might have been through her that I rented that place there.

Q. She is in partnership with Jeff Bidderson.  
How about Philip Geraci?

A. No.

Q. How about Vance Blalock?

A. No.

Q. How about Dean Andrews?

A. No. The only time I think I heard of Dean Andrews was when I went up to the FBI and they asked me do you know an attorney in New Orleans by the name of Dean Andrews and when his name came out in this thing I said to myself I bet that is the attorney.

Q. But you never met him?

A. No.

Q. How about Kenneth Leckie?

A. No.

Q. John Dodt?

A. No.

Q. Bootsie Gay?

A. Bootsie Gay rings a bell, now I knew a girl named Bootsie who went with Jim Dyer, she ran around the Bourbon House a lot, she was kind of a homely chick, and very promiscuous, a real character ....

Q. How about Al Clark?

A. Up at the ... I met him the other night ...

Q. I mean before the assassination, had you ever met him?

A. I think I met him in '64 too, he doesn't remember it we were introduced just the other night and I said I met you before, the last time I was here, and the time before that when I was down here for a week ....

Q. How about Dave Chandler?

A. The only time I heard of this guy was Bill Turner told me I had been seen with this guy and I said who is he... I said that's great but who the hell is Dave Chandler, you know its great to be told you are seen with people and you have to be told who they are, so I called Clint and I said who is Dave Chandler and he said oh, Dave Chandler is a stringer for Life Magazine down here, he said that's the guy who writes articles for Life.

Q. Did you ever meet Dave Chandler?

A. I never met Dave Chandler as far as I know.

Q. How about a man Ape Ames?

A. Doesn't sound at all familiar.

Q. Melvin Seeling?

A. No.

Q. Andrew Blackmon?

A. No.

Q. How about Harold Tannenbaum?

A. No, I don't think so.

Q. Frank Caracci?

A. No .. that name Caracci doesn't ring a bell.

Q. Davis, Gene Davis?

A. Gene Davis. I heard that name somewhere.

Q. You ever meet her?

A. Him?

Q. Yes.

A. Oh no.

Q. Have you ever been to Wanda's 7 Seas Bar?

A. That's the one up that way (pointing)?

Q. The one on Iberville.

A. No, I have never been there.

Q. Have you ever been to the Court of Two Sisters?

A. I was in there once, I think, and I had a fight with a waiter .....

Q. Did you ever meet Harold Sandoz?

A. No.

Q. What was the waiter's name you had the fight with?

A. Henry Avery.

Q. Ever know a man named Joseph de Blanco?

A. No.

Q. Joseph Peterson?

A. No.

Q. How about Miguel Torres?

A. No.

Q. Emanuel Torres?

A. No. There was a guy in the Marine Corps named Torres, Nat Torres, they called him T.J. and I knew a Chuck Torres in a fraternity somewhere, Chuck Torres, he was a member of a fraternity I was in at USC, I was a pledge, Delta Sigma Pi.

Q. Did you ever know a man named Thurman Cooley?

A. No.

Q. Dajonavich? (phonetically spelled)

A. Dajonavich - Dajonavich and Cooley were in MAX 9.

Q. Yes. They were from Louisiana, weren't they?

A. I don't know. That's one of the names I remembered when they were asking me about Heidel, I said there was a man in that outfit named Cooley, and Dajonavich was in that outfit, I remembered hearing the names, at muster.

Q. Have you ever been to Hammond, Louisiana?

A. No .. who do I know who had something to do with Hammond, La? Some friend of mine had been out there when I arrived in the Quarter, I think. Slim Brooks, he had been out there just before I arrived.

Q. Where is he from?

A. He is originally from some place in the midwest, he was a seaman and had tuberculosis, and he is still in the Quarter, I gave his name and address to ....

Q. What does he have to do with Hammond?

A. He was here before I got to the French Quarter and he said he just went up to Hammond, and I get along with those people up there and I get along with these people down here ....

Q. Did he say what he was doing up there?

A. He was working at a lumber mill, I don't know, something. I don't know whether he had just been there before he got tuberculosis, or what it was, but several times he mentioned Hammond, La. to me. He was very proud that he could get along with people from any part, anywhere.

Q. Did you ever meet William Klein?

A. The name Klein sounds familiar, but I don't connect it with New Orleans or the French Quarter.

Q. Ever meet a man named Barragona?

A. No.

Q. How about Gerald Patrick Henry?

A. No, that doesn't sound familiar.

Q. Very tall, about 6'8, 250.

A. No. I am trying to think of somebody .....

Q. He is a friend of Loren Hall's, have you ever met him, he has been in the paper recently?

A. No. I saw his picture in the Free Press, read all about him there.

Q. Lawrence Howard?

A. As far as I know I have never met him.

Q. Billy Seymour?

A. No.

Q. How about Bruce Ray Carlin?

A. No, doesn't ring a bell.

Q. Have you ever met Tommy Cox?

A. There was a Sgt. in MAX 9 named Cox, he hung out with a guy named Olieri. They were both kind of beatniks.

Q. Have you ever met a guy named Jack Lawrence?

A. Don't think so.

Q. How about a young man named Buel Wesley Frazier?

A. There was a guy named Frazier in Boot Camp with me in 1956, he was a real 8-ball, I don't know if I knew anybody else with that name Frazier.

- Q. Did you ever have occasion to be in Irving, Texas or Oak Cliff?
- A. One time on my way from New Orleans to the Freedom School I got off the bus and had a two hour stop over in Texas because I wanted to go the Book Depository and I went to a policeman and asked him where the Book Depository was and he told me where it was, and I went up and looked at it, then I decided I will ride busses around and I just got on the first bus and I didn't go to Irving, where I went was in back of the Book Depository over this way.
- Q. Did you ever meet Jack Helm?
- A. Helm is a familiar name in the Marine Corps.
- Q. These are not Marines. Did you ever meet him?
- A. Not that I remember.
- Q. What about Larry ~~Smith~~ (Schmidt)?
- A. It doesn't ring a bell.
- Q. A preacher named Rev. Brocher?
- A. No.
- Q. How about a man named Richard Nagell?
- A. A guy in High School was named Nagel or Nadel, a name something like that, in gym in High School.
- Q. In Whittier?
- A. Yes. There is where I connected him, now maybe he was in the Marine Corps, I don't think so, I think that is where he was.
- Q. How about Fred Lee Chrisman?
- A. No.
- Q. Ever meet a man named Alfred Bowen?
- A. There was a Sgt. Bowen in the Marine Corps, Bowman, no Bowman.
- Q. How about John Howard Bowen?



A. No.

(Break for Lunch)

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MR. GARRISON:

Have you ever been to the Dresden Room in Los Angeles?

A. No.

Q. When did you leave Los Angeles?

A. Which time, sir?

Q. The last time.

A. Just before Dave Lipton called me, a few days after ....

Q. Last year sometime?

A. Yes in October.

Q. Did you ever meet Gene Bradley out there?

A. I don't think so.

Q. You are not sure?

A. I don't remember the name, it doesn't ring a bell.

Q. Have you seen his picture in the paper? Eugene Bradley?

A. No, I was thinking of a girl again, oh this is the guy who took the lie detector test out there, I know who you mean, his picture was in the Free Press, I know who you mean, I didn't see him out there, no.

Q. Then you have never seen him?

A. No.

Q. Have you ever had occasion to attend any anti-Castro meetings?

- A. No, I have never attended an anti-Castro meeting and I never joined any type of anti-Castro organization, I have expressed anti-Castro views on occasion to people working with me at the Sheraton Charles, but I never attended any of the meetings.
- Q. Who introduced you to Martin McAuliffe?
- A. Joyce Talley, the girl who was typing my manuscript "The Idle Warrior".
- Q. Does she live here now?
- A. I don't know. She dropped out of sight shortly after that.
- Q. Where did she live?
- A. Out in Metairie some place like that, she lived out in the suburbs, I think she had a little girl or boy, a couple of kids, she was a young girl though, she was going to LSU or wherever McAuliffe was teaching and she was in his Literature class, and she kept on telling him oh, you have got to read this book, and I know he read that one chapter and wanted to get it on a television program of some kind, then he read the other chapters, he liked that chapter, and he looked at the next one and the next one and the next one and he started not liking them and he said you people who try to get your half baked political ideas in literature and you mess up literature, you know, he was being a purist ....
- Q. What business are you in now?
- A. I am a free lance writer, and occasionally I work for temporary employment called Employers Overload.
- Q. What magazines are you published in?
- A. Well, I had one last year come out in the Cavalier, in the May, 1965 issue, I had one .. I am having one in the second issue of The Advance Guard, whenever it comes out, I have published news letter which I also edited out on the Coast, its a newsletter called \_\_\_\_\_.
- Q. Does this bring you income?
- A. Yes, some.
- Q. What do you average a year from writing?

A. Not very much. This stuff about how much money I make, this sort of thing, its sorta hard for me to recall because every year I get all of these receipts and everything .....

Q. You don't have to work as a waiter anymore?

A. For the last little bit over a year I have been managing to stay alive with my writings, just about paid the rent, my wife is working now.

JUROR:

Do you have any trouble with income tax reports?

A. I have trouble figuring them out, I give them to a woman named Louise Teeter, out in Los Angeles and she figures them out for me I just give her all the receipts and she likes to do it and saves me that money and we just pay her ten dollars, you know ....

MR. GARRISON:

Where did you stay the six days in Mexico?

A. I stayed at a hotel, I believe it was called Hotel Marlin, like the fish, I stayed there and I was upstairs above the lobby and I came down to watch television once in a while in the lobby.

Q. And where did you pick up your Spanish?

A. I took Spanish all through my High School practically and I majored in Spanish in High School and I took Spanish in USC.

Q. What courses did you take in 1957? Your first semester?

A. I majored in Journalism, I didn't get any journalism courses because they had all these Freshman courses I had to take, I took a Freshman English course, I took, one year I took a Biology course, it was very advanced Biology course and very similar to the High School where I went, it was very similar to that so I practically slept through it and got very good marks.

Q. Well, let's go back to something else. Let me ask you this:

are you sure that you never saw Lee Harvey Oswald in New Orleans in 1963, for a while you seemed to be on the fence.

A. No, the only time I ever thought I did was when Barbara Reed was so sure about it, and I became convinced, but I am sure I did not see Oswald and recognize him in New Orleans of 1963.

Q. You are telling me there was a point when she had convinced you that you were with Oswald?

A. Yes, she convinced me, certainly, there was the two hours or so she was talking to me and she said, Kerry, what must have happened was this, you must have walked into the Bourbon House and he must have walked in, you must have seen that his face was familiar, but not recognized him out of uniform and all this stuff, and he must have sat down next to you ... she was so certain, so positive ....

Q. Did it seem to you that was possible?

A. It seemed to be possible, when she got all though, until the next day and people began to say Barbara Reed connects herself with everything that happens, then it seemed impossible ....

Q. Does it seem possible now?

A. Well, no, it doesn't seem possible to me unless I was drugged or something ....

Q. Why did you have such an unusual interest in Oswald that you were writing a book about him?

A. Because he went to the Soviet Union, just when I was figuring out why people get disillusioned in the Far East ....

Q. Did you ever write a book about anybody else?

A. A non-fiction book, about Oswald, called "Oswald".

Q. Have you written any book about anybody else?

A. I wrote part of a book based on myself and Jessica and Grace

Caplinger and Rob, it was about the French Quarter. That was called "Come Out and Play With Me". I was always going to write a book called "The Prince of Bourbon Street" on Dan Cartier, and I was going to write a .. you know I was always getting ideas for books .. and I would end up starting them and not finishing them, I was going to do one on the folk singers.

Q. Don't you feel that the probability is that if you are writing about a man for several years and he walks in the room that you would probably recognize him?

A. I feel that I certainly would. The only possibility would be like they showed me those pictures of Oswald yesterday and I thought he didn't have a utility cap on, in the Marine Corps he had this cap on all the time. That was it, the thing was I saw his face in the papers and all that and he looked so much the same way he looked in MAX 9.

Q. Where did you usually see Martin McAuliffe?

A. In the Bourbon House. And I saw him ... he was one of the first people I was introduced to in New Orleans. He was interested in "The Idle Warrior", and we talked about it a whole lot and I kept seeing him at the Bourbon House, then Joyce made this appointment to bring him in and everything and I kept seeing him there.

Q. Have you ever met Marina?

A. Not that I know of, I thought I saw her standing waiting for a bus when I got off here, but Moe said he was sure it wouldn't be her because she wouldn't be alone.

Q. But you did not meet her in 1963?

A. Not that I know of. This is the thing. The French Quarter is such a small place you see each other even though there are a lot of people and you pass somebody on the street and not recognize them, of course I would not have recognized her then because I would not have known who she was.

Q. When did you make the decision to move<sup>to</sup> the Arlington area after the assassination or before?

A. Yes, after the assassination.

I think the letter came after the assassination and the invitation was kind of a standing one, and I knew I was welcome. And he kind of reminded me of it and I thought that would be some place where I could go and have some place to eat while I was looking for a job and it was close to New York, where I was planning to go.

Q. You don't have his address now?

A. No, I don't, but I have it at home, I can call my wife and she can give it to me.

Q. Who does he work for?

A. I don't know who he works for, at that time he worked for a thing called the Alexandria Technical Institute, or something, he was a teacher, and it was a guy who was trying to start some kind of college in a building that was in a supermarket type building, and he was sort of a nut of some kind .....

Q. You want to stand outside for a moment ....

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the preceding transcript is a true and correct copy of the testimony given, under oath, before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury on February 8, 1968, and reduced to typewriting by me.

Maureen B. Thiel

